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# STORY OF THE AMERICAN FLAG

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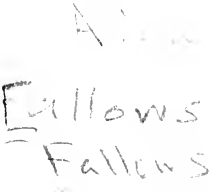
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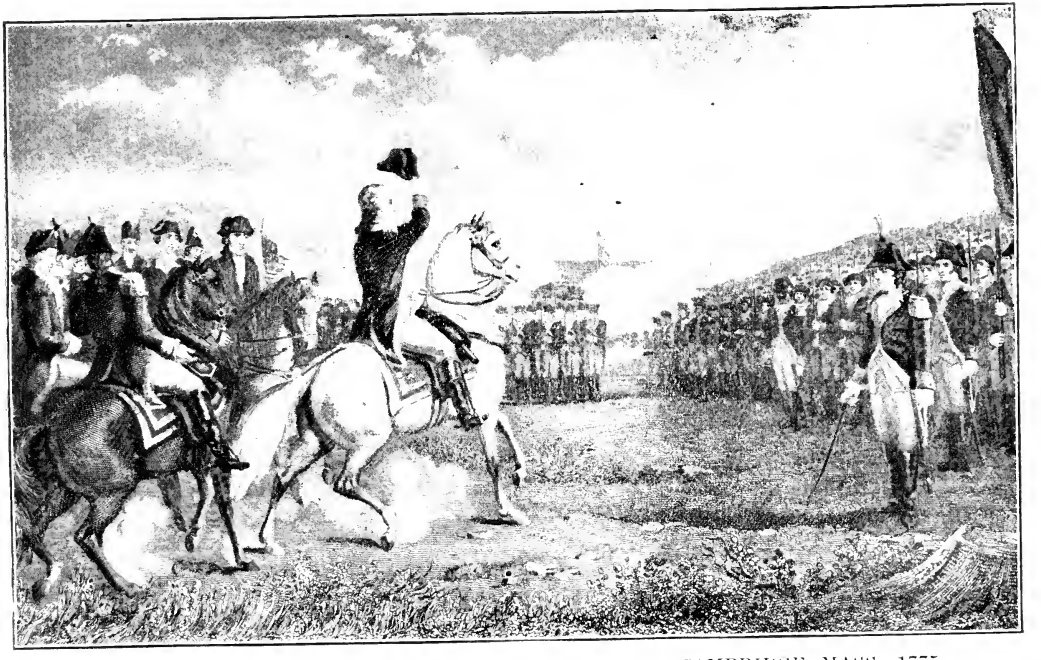

WASHINGTON TAKING COMMAND OF THE ARMY AT CAMBRIDGE, MASS., 1775.

# Story of the American Flag

WITH

## Patriotic Selections and Incidents

EDITED BY

SAMUEL FALLOWS, A. M., LL. D.

AUTHOR OF "SYNONYMS AND ANTONYMS," "LIBERTY AND UNION," "LIFE OF SAMUEL ADAMS," "POPULAR AND CRITICAL BIBLICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA," ETC., ETC.

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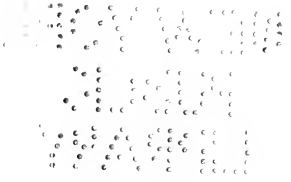

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# Story of the American Flag

EDITED BY SAMUEL FALLOWS, LL. D.

TO all true Americans, whether young or old, every subject that pertains to the history of our nation is fraught with the deepest interest, and what subject can be more instructive or more profoundly interesting than the story of our flag, the starry emblem of our country? No study can be more ennobling than that of acquiring a thorough knowledge of the important lesson it inculcates. No story is more thrilling than that of our beautiful banner, beneath whose folds glorious victories have been won, and heroic deeds, without number, have had their birth.

To the loyal American citizen, wandering in a foreign land, no sight is more welcome or more heart-stirring, than the sight of the "dear old Stars and Stripes."

With what courage and self-devotion does the soldier follow the beloved flag amidst the smoke and carnage of battle, shedding his blood freely to maintain its honor, dying, it may be, in its defense. To every true heart, the flag is not merely a piece of bunting, backed by the power and authority of Government, to enforce its recognition, nor is it merely the emblem of his land, or the insignia of the Nation, but it is the embodiment of a principle, the symbol of those sacred truths handed down to us by the Past as a precious inheritance, and which, if we are not traitors to the trust, will be as sacredly transmitted by us to the future.

Copyright by Samuel Fallows, 1903.

Every star and stripe that adorns the folds of our national ensign has a tongue. "There is no speech nor language where their voices are not heard."

They speak to us of the struggles of our country during its earlier and later history. They speak to us of the sufferings of the Past, the glories of the Present, and the still greater glories yet to be.

They speak to us of the patriots and heroes among the living and the dead, of victories and sometimes of reverses, on the sea and on the land; but far beyond all these glorious associations and memories, do they speak to us of Liberty and Union, of the Constitution and the Laws.

The story of our Flag should be familiar to all of us; its history should be a household word.

Every American youth should study its emblematic significance, and learn the wondrous tale of its trials and triumphs, in peace as well as in war. That story we will now endeavor to give to our readers, tracing the eventful history of our banner from its very birth, until it attained its present glorious beauty.

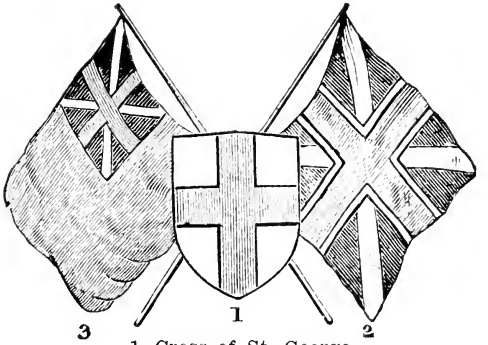
But to learn this story we shall have to go far back to the colonial history of our country, long before the banner of the present, with its stars and stripes, was thought of.

But we are not to forget that, although we are comparatively a young nation, the Stars and Stripes may claim antiquity among national flags. They are older than the flag of Great Britain, which was established in 1801—older than the French Tri-color, which was decreed in 1794—than the flag of the German empire, which dates from 1870—than the flag of Spain, which was decreed in 1785—than the flag of Italy, which was established in 1848—than

that of Sweden and Norway, which was decreed in 1817—than the flag of Portugal, which was adopted in 1815—than the recent flags of the empires, or those of the South American States, which have in general been modeled from our own.

The flags used by the Colonies, before the Revolution, were chiefly those of the mother country, and though there were many other designs, they were nearly always combined with some feature of the British colors.

Here it would be natural to inquire, in the first place, what were the flags used at that period by England? and in the second place, what colors did the Colonies use during that time?



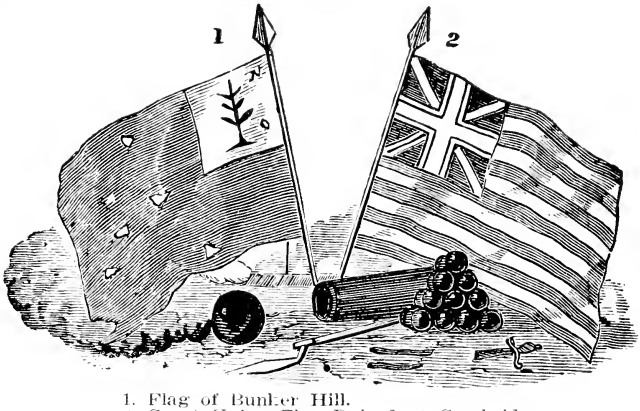

1. Cross of St. George.
2. Ancient British Jack.
3. Union British Ensign.

FIG. 1.

The old English national flag was the red cross of St. George on a white field, which had been the distinctive badge of every English soldier as early as the fourteenth century. This badge—the crimson cross on a white field—was always worn over the armor, as we often see in those pictures representing the English knights of the olden times.

From this fact, this emblem of St. George, the patron saint of England, as he was called, became in time the national standard of that country, and continued to be so until 1606, about three years after the crowns of England and Scotland had been under King James I.

In that year the Scottish banner of St. Andrew, a white cross on a blue field, was, by a royal proclamation, combined with the national colors of England.




1. Flag of Bunker Hill.
2. Great Union Flag Raised at Cambridge.

FIG. II.

We are told by the writers of that period, that the flag which combined the two crosses was called the King's Colors, because they signified that England and Scotland were united under the sovereignty of James I, while the relative nationality of the vessels of the two countries was made known by the white and red cross carried on the foretop.

No further change was made in the British colors until 1707, when England and Scotland were formally united into one kingdom, under the name of Great Britain. At that

time the color of the flag was changed to crimson, and the crosses, which had at first filled the whole banner, were now confined to the upper corner. This was the famous "meteor flag" of England.

We must now go back to the old English flag proper, which bore the single red cross of St. George. This banner was carried by the hardy English adventurers when they made their first conquest in America, and no doubt it waved over the devoted little band of Puritan exiles, when, on that bleak December day, in 1620, they knelt on the "stern and rock-bound coast" at Plymouth.

Of course everything savoring of Catholicism or Episcopalianism was heartily detested by the Puritans, and although the banner of St. George reminded them of the old country to which they were still bound by the tenderest associations, having left many of their dear ones behind, yet many of the colonists were found who held an unconquerable aversion to the cross in the banner because it had been given to England by a Pope, and was thus connected with a Bishop.

To show that this state of feeling existed at that time, and to prove also, that the red cross of St. George was in use in the Colonies, even at that early period of their existence, we refer to the following incident, mentioned in the journal of Governor John Winthrop, who was the first Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony (1634).

The writer tells us, "That in November, 1633, Richard Brown, of Watertown, Mass., made a complaint, 'That the ensign at Salem was defaced, in that one part of the red cross had been taken out.' Much matter was made of this, as fearing it would be taken as an act of rebellion, or of like high nature, in defacing the King's Colors (the flag of

St. George), though in truth it was done upon this opinion, that the red cross was given to the King of England by the Pope, as an ensign of victory, and so a superstitious thing, and a relic of Antichrist."

At the next term of Court an investigation concerning the matter was held, and the ensign bearer, Richard Davenport, was called up before the tribunal to answer for allowing the banner to be defaced.

The chronicler tells us, also, "That in 1635, a Mr. Endecott was summoned before a general Court, held at Newton, to render account for defacing the cross in the ensign; but because the Court could not agree about the thing, whether the ensign should be laid by, out of regard that many refused to follow them, the whole case was deferred till the next general Court, and the commissioners for military affairs gave orders, in the meantime, that all ensigns should be laid aside."

During this period the fanatical opposition to the cross in the banner ran so high that a proposal was made to substitute in its place the red and white roses, which had been the distinguished insignia of the rival houses of York and Lancaster emblazoned on the British national flag, and borne by the two factions in that unhappy civil contest for the throne of England, known as the wars of the red and white roses.

But this proposal seems to have come to naught, for we learn that sometime in the beginning of December, 1635, by order of the military commissioners, colors, with the cross left out in all of them, were appointed to every company, but in the flag used on Castle Island the King's arms were allowed to remain.

The red cross of St. George, however, gradually worked

its way back into favor again, though it was now used with some variations. The most frequent of these was a crimson banner, with a red cross on a white field in the upper corner, and in one corner of the four spaces formed by the cross, a symbol was placed, intended to represent a pine tree. This tree had been adopted by the people of New England as an emblem to typify their sturdy and rugged natures; it was also used on the first money, coined in the year 1652.

Other variations of the banner of St. George were devised, and in use in the Colonies from time to time, giving evidence of that growing feeling which was ultimately to eventuate in their independence, until, in 1707, the union flag, created by King James I, in 1606, was ordered by the British Parliament for general use in all the Colonies.

It was on January 16, 1707, that Parliament passed the Act ratifying the treaty of the two kingdoms of England and Scotland, by which the distinction of the two countries under one government was effected. Under this act it was prescribed:

"That the kingdoms of Scotland and England shall, upon the first day of May next ensuing the date thereof, and forever after, be united into one kingdom, by the name of Great Britain; and that the ensigns armorial of the said United Kingdom be such as Her Majesty shall appoint."

On July 28th, in the same year, Queen Anne, the then reigning sovereign of Great Britain, issued a proclamation relating the form of the ensigns of the United Kingdom, which were called union flags.

As we have shown, in a former part of this story, these flags were of crimson color, with the two combined crosses placed in the upper corner. They were called "Union Flags," as symbolizing the union of England and Scotland into one kingdom.

The Act of Parliament prescribing the general use of this flag in all the American Colonies, indicates to us how early the Colonists began to manifest that spirit of independence that finally made them a separate nation. But it was not until long-continued grievances had been heaped upon our people by the mother country that endurance ceased to be a virtue, and the separation took place.

And in this connection, we must bear in mind the fact that, although our forefathers resisted the aggression of the British King and his ministers, and took up the sword for that purpose, yet their primary object was simply to maintain their rights, and obtain redress for standing grievances. (See Fig. II, No. 1.)

The idea of separation was not involved in the beginning of the struggle, although, doubtless, to some leading minds the hand-writing on the wall was visible, foreshowing the coming independence of the nation.

As the exciting times of the Revolution drew near, the growing spirit of independence again manifested itself in the designs used in the banners. The ten years preceding the outbreak witnessed a great variety of devices and mottoes on the flags, all pointing to the state of feeling which agitated the public mind, and during the first months of the Revolutionary war each state had its own flag.

In the fall of 1775 Congress appointed a committee to create a navy, but nothing seems to have been done about furnishing the newly made navy with a suitable ensign. On July 18, 1775, Washington was presented with a standard bearing the motto, "An Appeal to Heaven." In the same year a similar design was used for a Revolutionary flag, with the addition of a pine tree in the middle of a white ground. This became the emblem of the Colonial cruisers,

as is shown by the subjoined extract from a letter written by Colonel Joseph Reed, Washington's military secretary:

"Please fix upon some particular color for a flag, and a signal by which our vessels may know one another. What do you think of a flag with a white ground, a tree in the middle, the motto 'An Appeal to Heaven?' This is the flag of our floating batteries."

Another favorite device was a rattlesnake with the motto, "Don't Tread on Me." Some flags added a mailed hand clinching thirteen arrows. The rattlesnake came very near being our national emblem instead of the eagle. Being indigenous to America, it had been early chosen as an appropriate symbol, and had been often used on flags.

The old banner of the French and Indian war was again used in 1775. This was a white flag with a rattlesnake cut into parts representing the Colonies, and the motto, "Unite or Die." In 1774-6 this device was used by many of the newspapers as a head-piece, when the Colonies were called upon to form a union as the best mode of securing their liberties.

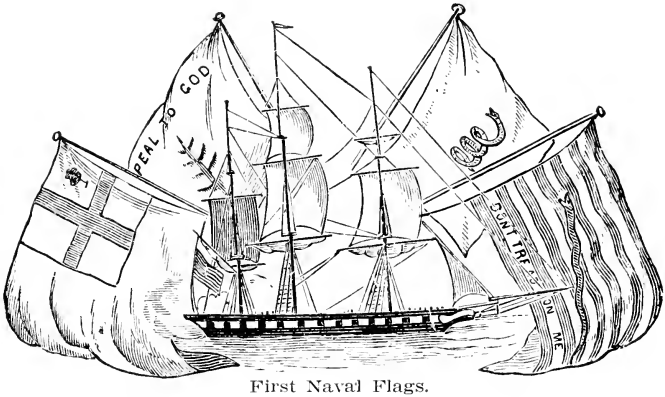
When that union had been effected, the device was changed into a united snake, typifying the consummation of the union.

Much discussion took place concerning the adoption of the snake as the national emblem, and Benjamin Franklin urged weighty reasons in its favor.

But, as we know, the rattlesnake was not adopted as our national emblem, perhaps from the fact that it is a serpent and considered as under the curse of God; yet this symbol was used as an appropriate device in many flags of the period. One design was that presented by Colonel Gadsen to Congress. It was a yellow flag with

a rattlesnake in the middle, coiled ready to strike, and underneath were the words of warning, "Don't Tread on Me."

This is said by some to have been the admiral's flag of that period, and that Admiral Hopkins, the commander of the first American fleet, bore this flag. We are told by others that the admiral's flag at that time was of thirteen stripes, with a rattlesnake undulating over them, and the usual motto, "Don't Tread on Me." However the case may be, it is doubtless true that the last mentioned flag constituted the colors of the American fleet in 1776. (See Fig. III.)




First Naval Flags.
FIG. III.

But we must now give our attention to the circumstances in which our present flag was born. The infant colonies were about to engage in their fearful struggle for liberty with the Mother Country, and the necessity for union was the chief idea in every loyal heart.

Every motto and device emblazoned on the flags and badges of the time embodied that sentiment.

It rang out in thrilling tones from eloquent lips.

The journals of the day took up the strain, and, as before stated, headed their columns with the emblem of a rattlesnake divided into thirteen parts, each bearing the initial of some colony, while underneath were the words, "Unite or Die."

No more significant motto could have been chosen. It meant that without union there was no hope of safety or success. Union was life—disunion, death!

And now the necessity of having a flag, one National banner, around which the united Colonies could rally, became manifest. The Declaration of Independence had not yet been made; the flag must come before the declaration. The spirit of the people must be tried and some hard and sturdy fighting done before such bold words could be spoken.

But men cannot fight without a flag, and so our national banner was born.

Up to this time, the old Union flag of Great Britain had been in use, that is, the crimson flag with the combined crosses of St. George and St. Andrews in the upper corner. But late in 1775, Benjamin Franklin, Mr. Lynch and Mr. Harrison were appointed as a Committee of Conference, by Congress, to have the subject of a national flag under consideration.

This committee met at the American camp at Cambridge, and adopted as a banner the combined crosses of St. George and St. Andrew (the symbol of the union flag of Great Britain), united with thirteen stripes, alternate red and white.

We do not know whether or not the reasons for adopting this insignia were ever made known. It has been suggested

that the stripes and ribbons, then the only distinguishing marks of rank among the different grades of officers in the army, might have suggested to the committee the idea of representing the various states by similar means.

The adoption of the combined crosses of the English union flag showed a desire to cherish and retain some memento of the Past. The seven red and six white stripes designated the number of the Colonies; and these thirteen stripes, reunited with the two joined crosses, showed that although the Colonies united for defense against England's tyranny, they still acknowledged her sovereignty.

It is not known when this flag, called the "Great Union Flag," was adopted by law, neither can any record be found of Congress having taken any part in this affair at Cambridge.

The new flag was raised at the camp at Cambridge on January 2, 1776, and this was the first unfolding of that flag which was to become the pride of a great nation, the symbol of a mighty power, and will float in heaven as long as our country is on the map of the earth, which will be as long as love and liberty and union dwells in the hearts of men.

Upon the day that the Great Union Flag was raised, the King's speech, on the trouble with the Colonies, was received in Boston, and copies of the speech were sent, under a flag of truce, to Washington, at Cambridge, by Lord Howe, the commander of the British troops.

This coincidence caused an amusing error on the part of the British, for when the new flag was raised in the American camp, amid the booming of thirteen cannon and ringing cheers, they thought that all these demonstrations denoted the submission of the Americans to the exactions of the King.

FLAG OF THE UNITED COLONIES OF AMERICA DISPLAYED BY GENERAL WASHINGTON, JANUARY 2, 1776.

But the idea of submission was farthest from their thoughts. The King's speech was burned, and as the new banner was unfolded to the breeze, every loyal heart was filled with a deeper and sturdier patriotism, with a firmer determination to battle for freedom.

The British soon discovered that they were laboring under a delusion, and their self-gratulations were all for naught. That they shortly learned that no submission was intended, and, also, that the King's speech had been publicly burned in the American camp, is shown by the following account, written by an English captain to the owners of his vessel, at London, and published in the British Annual Register for 1776:

"Boston, January 17, 1776.

"I can see the rebels' camp very plain, whose colors, a little while ago, were entirely red; but on the receipt of the King's speech (which they burnt), they have hoisted the Union flag, which is here supposed to intimate the union of the provinces.

"The arrival of a copy of the King's speech, with an account of the fate of the petition from the Continental Congress, is said to have excited the greatest degree of rage and indignation among them; as a proof of which the former was publicly burnt in the camp; and they are said on this occasion to have changed their colors from a plain red ground, which they had hitherto used, to a flag with thirteen stripes, as a symbol of the number and union of the colonies."

The fact, then, was established beyond all doubt that the flag raised on the second of January, 1776, was a flag of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, with the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew joined together in the upper

corner. This striped flag also, we are told, floated over the Virginia Convention, which, three weeks before the Declaration of Independence, declared the United Colonies "free and independent States."

A squadron of five vessels commanded by Commodore Hopkins sailed under this flag from Philadelphia on March 2, 1776, made a descent on the island of New Providence, capturing the town of Nassau, with the governor, one hundred cannon, and a large quantity of other military stores.

This flag, too, was triumphantly carried into Boston on the afternoon of March 17, 1776, by a detachment under the command of Colonel Ebenezer Learned, of the Third Regiment of Continental Infantry. And it remained the quasi continental colors during the disastrous battle of Long Island, the evacuation of New York, the momentary success at Harlem Heights, the British repulse at White Plains, the crushing loss at Forts Washington and Lee, the dreary retreat through the Jerseys, and the brilliant strokes at Trenton and Princeton.

In the meantime the American cruisers were still carrying their colonial or state flags. It was also the admiral's flag; but some of the commanders on sea adopted banners for their own vessels.

The one used by Paul Jones is said to have consisted of thirteen stripes, alternate red and blue.

"My hand first hoisted the American flag on board the Alfred," said the pugnacious Scotch-American hero.

And if so it was the first time it was ever shown by a regular American man-of-war.

But the claim of Paul Jones was disputed by John Adams, who was insistent that Massachusetts, through one of her sons, should have the flag.

"I assert," said the old man eloquent, in vigorous language, "that the first American flag was hoisted by Captain John Manly, and the first British flag was struck to him."

PAUL JONES.

Manly was a brave Boston sailor who, in his schooner, the Lee, had captured the British brig Nancy at the outset of the war. His ensign might have been one of the common pine tree flags, then in use. The weight of proof, however, belongs to Paul Jones.

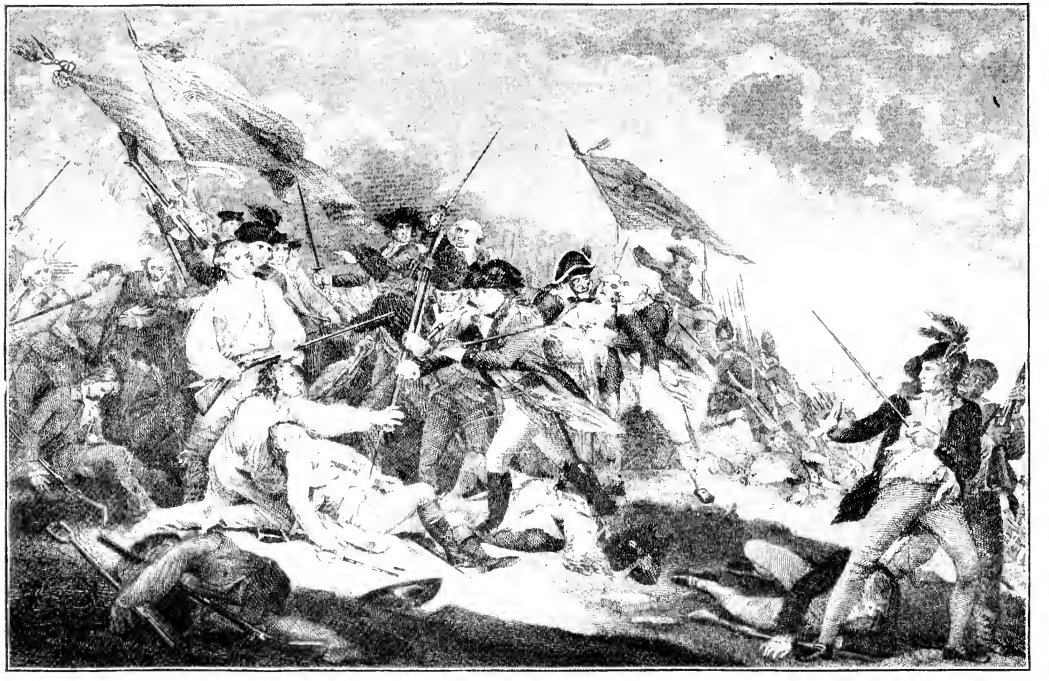
Before we go on to trace the further development of our national banner until it attained its present form, it may be of interest to mention some of the other flags that were in use during the Revolutionary period.

The first of these is the banner that was used by the patriots at the battle of Bunker Hill. In the rotunda at Washington there is the celebrated painting, by Trumbull, of the battle, in which is represented the flag said to have been used on that occasion.

It is a red flag with a white canton bearing a green pine tree.

Some writers assert that the battle was fought without a flag on the part of the Americans. J. E. Dow., Esq., maintains that the provincials had no banner. He says:

"Not a banner had the provincials to raise on that occasion. Some say that a plain white sheet, and others a standard, bearing upon its scanty surface a tree, was seen waving over the redoubt, but I doubt it. The soldiers of Bunker Hill, unlike those in every other battle, needed no



BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL, JUNE 17, 1775.

starred banner to wave them on, no spirit-stirring fife or rattling drum to cheer them in the fight, nor to drown the cries of the wounded and the dying.

"They fought for liberty, and their banner was their leader's calico hunting-shirt, and their music the muttering of deep-mouthed cannon and the shrill whistle of rifle bullets."

But the fact that there was a flag carried by the Americans at the battle of Bunker Hill has been handed down to us by tradition, and not only that, but that the flag was red, signifying battle.

It does not appear reasonable that, while so many banners bearing different devices and mottoes, were in use in the Colonies at that time, not a banner waved over that gallant band which made Bunker Hill memorable for all time.

True such heroes needed no "starred banner to wave them on," but when they gathered at that redoubt, so fatal to Old England's sons, it is very probable that they adopted some ensign to serve as the rallying point in case of disaster.

It may be that there was not only one banner borne by the provincials on that day, but several. One writer, speaking of that occasion, says:

"The banners carried were as varied as the troops were motley."

Authentic mention is made, also, of a crimson flag that was presented to General Putnam shortly before the battle, and which bore on one side the inscription, "Qui transtulit sustinet"—He who brought us here will sustain us—while on the other side was the motto, "An Appeal to Heaven."

It is reasonable to suppose that this flag, as well as the one represented in Trumbull's painting, waved over the little band of heroes in the battle of Bunker Hill.

Another flag of the revolution was called the Culpepper flag, adopted by the Culpepper Minute Men. This band was organized in response to the call of Patrick Henry. Their uniform consisted of green hunting-shirts, with Henry's words, "Liberty or Death," in large white letters on their breasts. Near the upper border of their flag was a scroll inscribed with the name of the corps, "The Culpepper Minute Men," and underneath were the words, "Liberty or Death."

Beneath the last inscription was a rattlesnake coiled ready to strike, with the usual motto under it, "Don't tread on me."

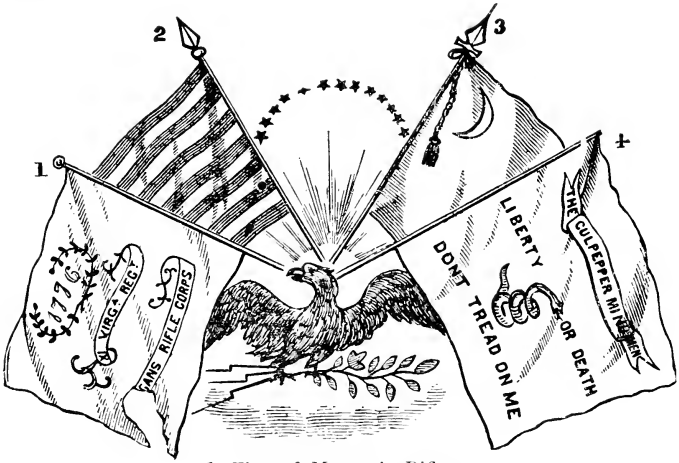
The first flag that appeared in the Southern section of the country was that of South Carolina, designed by Colonel Moultrie, who became famous for his gallant defense of Sullivan's Island, in 1776. We will let the Colonel describe the flag, and the circumstances relating to its adoption, in his own words.

"As there was no national flag at that time," he says, "I was desired by the Council of Safety to have one made; upon which, as the State troops were clothed in blue, and the fort was garrisoned by the first and second regiments, who wore a silver crescent on the front of their caps, I had a large blue flag made, with a crescent in the dexter corner, to be uniform with the troops." This was the first American flag displayed in the South.

Early in the following year a similar flag, with the word "Liberty" inscribed upon it, was raised above Fort Moultrie.

Another flag was one carried by the Morgan Rifles. This corps was commanded by David Morgan, who was born in 1736, and followed the humble occupation of a

farmer and wagoner until called to the field. He had been a private soldier under Braddock, and when the war of the Revolution broke out he joined Washington at Cambridge, in 1775, and became a general. He distinguished himself in various engagements, and especially at the battle of the Cowpens.




1. Flag of Morgan's Rifles.
2. Continental Striped Flag.
3. South Carolina Flag.
4. Culpepper Flag.

FIG. IV.

The flag carried by his rifle corps had at the top a wreath of laurel encircling the date 1776; underneath was the inscription, "XI Virginia Regiment," and below this was the legend, "Morgan's Rifle Corps." (See Fig. IV.)

Another flag used in the stirring times of that period had a blue ground, with the Goddess of Liberty on one side, and a soldier in full uniform on the other, supporting a large shield, upon which was emblazoned an eagle with outstretched wings. At the base of this were piled cannon balls

and drums, while behind it were arranged several striped, or Continental, flags.

This flag was bravely borne by the Richmond Rifles during that important era in their country's history.

Soon after the siege of Boston and while the American army was encamped on Manhattan Island, near the City of New York, a distinct corps of mounted men, taken from all states which furnished the army with troops, was organized to act as a body guard to General Washington. It was commonly called "The Life Guard," and, though formed for the purpose of acting as the commander-in-chief's personal guard, it was often called upon to take its share in the fight in which he was engaged.

It consisted of one hundred and eighty men under the command of an officer styled captain commandant. The uniform of the "Life Guard" consisted of a blue coat with white facings, white waistcoat and breeches, black half gaiters, and a cocked hat with a blue and white plume. They were armed with muskets, but sometimes carried side-arms.

The standard of the corps was of white silk. Over the top the motto of the corps, "Conquer or Die," was inscribed upon a ribbon, while beneath one of the guard is seen holding a horse, and is in the act of receiving a banner from the Genius of Liberty, who is represented as a woman resting one hand on the Union shield, near which is the American Eagle.

Next in order, and the last of the Revolutionary standards to be noticed, is the banner presented to Count Pulaski, by the Moravian nuns of Bethlehem. Pulaski was a distinguished Pole, who left his own loved land and came to America to offer his services to the States in their struggle against the mother country. He took part in the battle of

Brandywine, where he gained much distinction and was created a brigadier-general in the Continental Army. By permission of Congress, he raised and took command of an independent corps, consisting of sixty-eight horse and two hundred foot.

This command was composed chiefly of men of the city of Baltimore, where the organization was effected, and when it was known that such an organization was forming, a banner of crimson silk, beautifully embroidered with designs by their own hands, was sent by the nuns of Bethlehem to Pulaski with their blessing. (See Fig. V.)

This event has been commemorated by our own poet, Longfellow, in the following exquisite lines:

When the dying flame of day
Through the chancel shot its ray,
Far the glimmering tapers shed
Faint light on the cowled head;
And the censer burning swung,
Where, before the altar, hung
The crimson banner, that with prayer
Had been consecrated there.
And the nuns' sweet prayer was heard the while
Sung low, in the dim, mysterious aisle.

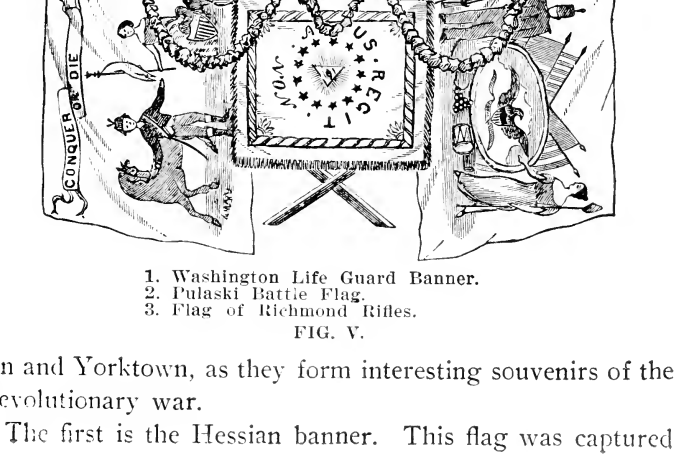
"Take thy banner! May it wave
Proudly o'er the good and brave;
When the battle's distant wail
Breaks the Sabbath of our vale,
When the clarion's music thrills
To the hearts of those lone hills,
When the spear in conflict shakes,
And the strong lance shivering breaks.

Take thy banner; and, beneath
The battle-cloud's encircling wreath,
Guard it, till our homes are free!
Guard it! God will prosper thee!
In the dark and trying hour,
In the breaking forth of power,
In the rush of steeds and men,
His right hand will shield thee then.

Take thy banner! But when night
Closes round the ghastly fight,
If the vanquished warrior bow,
Spare him; by our holy vow,
By our prayers and many tears,
By the mercy that endears,
Spare him; he our love hath shared;
Spare him! as thou wouldst be spared.

Take thy banner! and if e'er
Thou shouldst press the soldier's bier,
And the muffled drum should beat
To the tread of mournful feet,
Then this crimson flag shall be
Martial cloak and shroud for thee."
The warrior took that banner proud,
And it was his martial cloak and shroud.

Before leaving this part of our story a passing reference may be made to the flags captured by Washington at Tren-




1. Washington Life Guard Banner.
2. Pulaski Battle Flag.
3. Flag of Richmond Rifles.

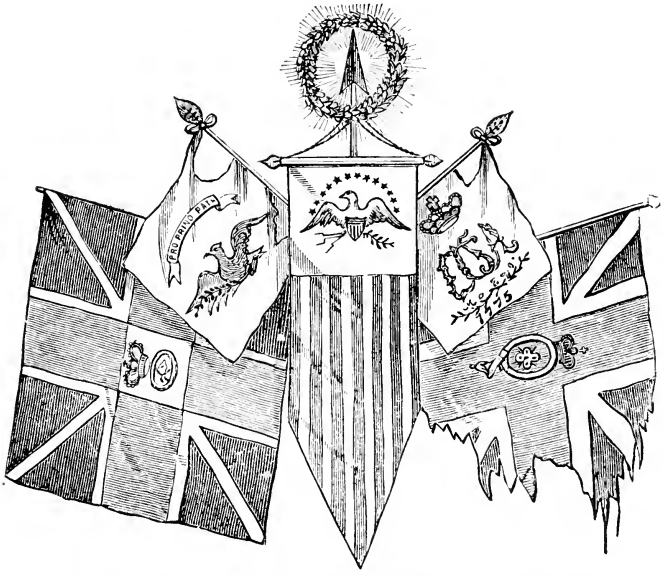
FIG. V.

ton and Yorktown, as they form interesting souvenirs of the Revolutionary war.

The first is the Hessian banner. This flag was captured

at Trenton, and consists of two pieces of very heavy white damask silk, with devices wrought in gold thread. A description of these devices is given by an authentic writer, from whom we quote:

"On one side is an eagle, bearing in its talons a scroll and olive branch. Over it, upon a ribbon, are the words, 'Pro



FLAGS CAPTURED AT YORKTOWN AND TRENTON.

FIG. VI.

principe et patria'—'For Principle and Country'—a curious motto for hirelings to bear. Upon the other side is the monogram, composed of the letters E. C. T. S. A., supposed to be that of their general.

"Under it are the initials M. Z. B., and the date 1775. A British crown surmounts the whole. It is four feet square.

The tassels, made of silver bullion, are suspended to a plate of silver tinsel."

The other two flags are the banners surrendered by the British at the capture of Yorktown. They are composed of heavy blue twilled silk with the center stripes of the crosses red, and the marginal ones white. (See Fig. VI.)

We have now shown the origin of our national banner, following its various phases from its birth, up through its infancy and childhood, but the crowning glory of its manhood was yet to come.

During the earlier years of the war there were many, even of the loyal Americans, who opposed the idea of a separation from the mother country as being unnecessary. On the other hand, many others claimed that this was the only course to be taken, and in the signs of the times they foresaw the coming independence.

Meanwhile England's determination to reduce her rebellious Colonies to subjection became stronger, and the cruel and heartless efforts she put forth to accomplish this purpose roused such a spirit that it became a self-evident fact, even to the most luke-warm, that further compromise was in vain, and that all allegiance to the British Crown must be thrown off.

So the separation took place, and that immortal document, penned by Thomas Jefferson, declaring us to be a free and independent nation, was given to the world.

But, since by this separation we had surrendered all the ties of birth and parentage that had previously bound us to the mother country, it became necessary to blot out from our banner every memento of our past allegiance.

Hence the emblem of the British union was stricken from our colors.

On June 14, 1777, Congress passed the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white. That the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

Here, then, we have our Stars and Stripes, clothed with the first vesture of manhood; but, as before stated, this

THOMAS JEFFERSON.
From a rare engraving on copper.

measure of Congress was only the official adoption of a flag that had existed for more than a year, with this exception—the blue union, containing thirteen stars.

This flag was at once hoisted on sea and land, and the war was fought under the Stars and Stripes. Every loyal heart found inspiration in

> The red as of the rosy morn
> When brightest, clearest days are born,
> And of the lily fair and white

When dipped in dews of summer night.
The blue of clear and peaceful sky,
When not a cloud goes floating by.
The stars of brightest glittering
All in that noble offering.
This emblem, then, shall ever be
The symbol of sweet liberty.

The question would naturally arise, "Why were the stars selected to represent the different States?"

SURRENDER OF CORNWALLIS.

To this we can only answer, that the origin of the stars is involved in obscurity. Many suppose that they were taken, as was said of the stripes, from the Washington coat-of-arms, which was, by a curious coincidence, composed of both stars and alternate red and white stripes. But this

supposition is very unlikely; for had such been the case, doubtless Washington would have alluded to the fact in some way, which he seems never to have done.

Others think that the stars were intended to represent the constellation "Lyra"—the lyre. This claim is based upon the idea that, as the new constellation signified union, the constellation Lyra was adopted as the emblem, because, among the ancients, this was the symbol of harmony and unity among men, and contains just thirteen stars.

FIG. VII.

But how to represent our new constellation based upon this emblem, would be a difficult question. A design consisting of the thirteen stars arranged in the supposed form of a lyre, possessed some objectionable features. It was too complex, and there would be great difficulty in representing such a device on the flag so as to be readily comprehended by the people at large. Hence, a device more simple, and at the same time tasteful, was desirable.

In the flag adopted by Congress, the thirteen stars were arranged in a circle, designed, as is supposed, to signify union and eternal endurance, the circle being the symbol of eternity. (See Fig. VII.) Whether this plan was a modification of the preceding one, we are not prepared to say; and the relation existing between the constellation Lyra and a circle of stars would doubtless be obscure to many.

John Adams first proposed the Lyra as the symbol of union. His son, John Quincy Adams, while secretary of state in 1820, supervised the preparation of a new device to be used on the forms for United States passports which had, previous to that time, borne the arms of the United States.

This new design consisted of an eagle holding in his beak the constellation Lyra, and the motto "Nunc sidera ducit," while around the Lyra the thirteen stars were arranged in a circle, and represented as radiating from it.

Another feature, having reference to the individual form of the stars, has, perhaps, escaped the notice of many. As represented on our banner they have five points, while those on our coins are six-pointed. This difference arose from the fact that the designers of our flag followed the French custom, and the designers of the coins that of the English.

It has never been discovered who designed our Union of Stars, but the honor of making the first American flag, according to the design approved by Congress, no doubt belonged to Mrs. Elizabeth Ross.

Three of her daughters, who were still living in Philadelphia in 1882, confirmed this fact—founding their belief, not upon what they saw, for it was made many years before they were born, but upon what their mother had often told them.

A niece of this lady, Mrs. Margaret Boggs, aged ninety-five years, who was also alive a few years since, was conversant with the fact. Thus to Philadelphia not only belongs the honor of unfolding the first star-spangled banner to the breeze, but to a Philadelphia lady belongs the honor of having made it.

Mrs. Betsy Ross was an upholsterer in Philadelphia, and in June, 1776, after Congress had decided upon the design for the flag, a committee of Congress, with Washington, visited the lady, and asked her to make a flag from a rough drawing which they had brought with them. She said, "I don't know whether I can, but I'll try."

She then suggested some changes in the design, and called the attention of the gentlemen to the fact that the form of the stars in it was incorrect, in that they were six-pointed and not five-pointed as they should be. This error was corrected; she made the flag and Congress accepted it. Mrs. Ross was appointed flag-maker to the government and for half a dozen years made all its national flags.

## FLAGS OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT.

### WAR STANDARDS OF THE ARMY, THE NAVY, AND THE VARIOUS STATE MILITIA.

The military flags of the United States are divided into those of the Army, the Navy and the State. After the national colors, which, of course, take precedence of all other flags, comes the Jack, or more commonly, the Union Jack. This flag is simply the "Union" taken out of the main colors, and it is exclusively the distinguishing flag of the navy.

The president of the United States, who is at the head of the army and navy, is entitled to the first "ranking" flag in the country. The president's flag is a spread eagle—the national coat-of-arms—mounted on a blue field, surmounted by a curved row of thirteen stars. It is five feet six inches long by four feet four inches wide; is made of the finest quality of seamless silk and is trimmed with yellow fringe.

Next to the president's colors comes the flags of the secretaries of war and navy. That for the secretary of war was adopted as recently as March 3, 1897. It is made of scarlet silk and is otherwise identical with the president's flag with the exception that the thirteen stars are replaced by four white stars in the corners. The special flag for the secretary of the navy has a blue field, and instead of the national coat-of-arms, it is embroidered with a white anchor in the center.

Following in the order of rank, the most important flag in the army, next to that of the secretary of war, is the United States army headquarters standard. It has a blue field gorgeously embroidered with the national arms in brown and gold. Wherever it appears in active service, it denotes the presence of the general commanding the army or his nearest ranking general.

In a regular line of march, every regiment composing an army carries at its front the national colors, bearing on the fourth red stripe from the top the number of the regiment and its character, whether infantry, cavalry or artillery. Besides this it carries a regimental flag on which is embroidered a national coat-of-arms similar to that on the president's special flag. The regimental flag for the infantry is blue; the cavalry is yellow. The artillery and battalion colors for engineers are both scarlet, but the flag for the engineers bears a three-turreted castle instead of the spread eagle.

Detached troops of cavalry and artillery carry small guidons or pennants bearing the troop number and letter.

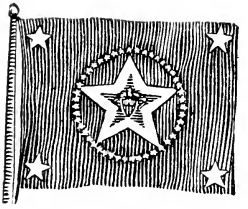
The regulation colors for the army, whether national or regimental, measure five and a half feet long by four feet four inches wide. All "service" flags are made of bunting;

colors for ceremony are of silk. The trimmings, fringe and cord and tassels of all flags must conform to the regulation colors of the division to which they belong. Flag pikes are nine feet long and an inch and a half in diameter in the center, tapering slightly toward the ends. The pike is tipped with nickle-plated spearhead in the shape of a heart.

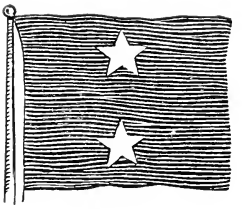
In the navy there are seven flags designating rank, aside from the special flag of the secretary of the navy. Next to this is the assistant secretary's, an exact counterpart of the former, only the colors are reversed. All the remaining flags have a blue field and white stars; the order being for admirals, four stars; for vice-admirals, three stars; for rear admirals, two stars; for commodore, one star in center of blue pennant. The captain's pennant is a strip of bunting fifteen feet long, with thirteen stars in a blue field and a red and white stripe. Last of all is a small, triangular pennant, with a dead blue field, denoting the senior officer's presence in the absence of a captain of a ship.

The special flag of the officer highest in rank invariably floats from the "main" of the vessel he is on. When the secretary of the navy visits a ship of war, the commanding officer's colors are immediately lowered from the masthead and the secretary's flag takes its place. During a squadron cruise, the captain of the flagship never flies his special flag, the admiral being the highest ranking officer.

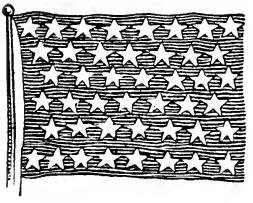
There are seven sizes of flags used in the navy, ranging all the way from thirty-six to three feet in length. The first five sizes are designated officially as "ship" flags. Sizes Nos. 1 and 2 are now almost obsolete. They were intended for the old wooden frigates, whose stern stood high above the water, and would be entirely unsuitable for the low-lying freeboard of our cruisers and battleships.



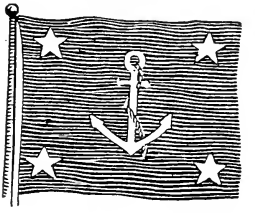
*President of the United States*



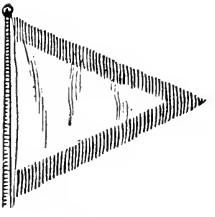
*Rear Admiral.*



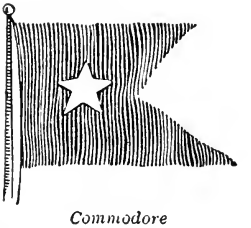
*Union Jack.*



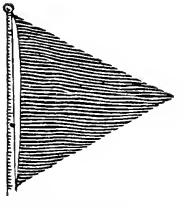
*Secretary of the Navy.*



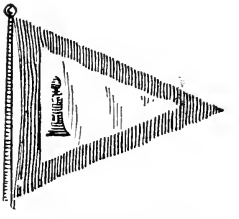
*Naval Convoy*



*Commodore*



*Senior Officer present.*



*Light-house Service.*

GOVERNMENT FLAGS.

A vessel in commission always carries the national colors at the stern until sundown every night. The flag of the commanding officer remains at the masthead day and night. In going to and from shore, ship's small boats carry the flag of the senior officer at the fore, when the officer is below the grade of captain, otherwise the officer's own colors are used.

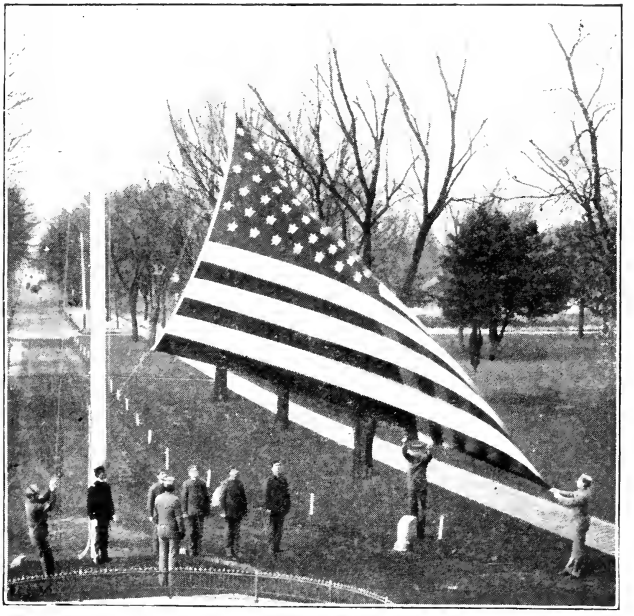
In addition to the flags of officers whose rank entitles them to special recognition in naval etiquette, every ship of war is supplied with a full set of international colors, a full set of "wig-wag," or signaling, flags, and a full set of pennants, including colors, for the purpose of showing that the ship is taking aboard ammunition, that the crew are at "mess" or that the regular Sunday "church" services are taking place, and so forth.

The grandest and most imposing pennant in the whole navy is the "homeward bound" streamer, a 45-starred red, white and blue strip of bunting, in all respects like the captain's pennant, which floats majestically from the main mast, and is often so long that it trails in the water at the stern.

### THE LOWERING OF THE FLAG.

Now, when the sunset-gun is fired at a United States military post, "Old Glory" comes down amidst most impressive ceremonies, and not, as formerly, when loosened halyards allowed the flag to descend with a run, to fall on the ground and be bundled up in a manner that bore no marks of the respect due to the emblem of our nation, says the Philadelphia Times. The old and untimely mode of procedure has been changed, thanks to a patriotic sentiment that demands that all ceremonies having to do with the

Stars and Stripes be performed decently and in order. It was in response to that sentiment that the Army Board on Drill Regulations adopted an entirely new and most effective system, and one that was suggested and urged by Capt. W. R. Hamilton, of the Seventh United States Artillery, some years ago. Now the flag is properly treated.



LOWERING THE FLAG.
Specially photographed for the "Story of the American Flag."

Immediately before the time of lowering the flag the force at the post "fall in" ready for roll-call at the foot of the staff, where every man can see the Stars and Stripes as they are illumined by the parting rays of the sun. Then

comes the measured roll-call, followed by the buglers' sounding a "retreat." When the last note of the bugle is heard the gun is fired, and all the men are brought to "attention." If they are armed, arms are presented, and visitors and bystanders remove their hats. Then the band standing on the parapet immediately below the flag plays "The Star-Spangled Banner." When the playing begins the flag starts down, not hurriedly, but deliberately, and in rythm with the music. As the moving air fans its bright folds, that are given an impulse by the measured motions of the halyards, they wave in time to the music, and perfect the harmony of sound, action and sentiment. When the last bar of patriotic music is completed, and the final inch of the halyards played out, the flag is not allowed to touch the ground. A sergeant and his detail stand ready to receive it, and four men appointed for the purpose take it in their outstretched arms and fold it carefully. Then it is carried to the guard-house, placed in a box especially provided for it, and kept under careful guard until the next morning.

### MEANING OF FLAGS.

A nation's flag represents its sovereignty and is prominently displayed in all army and navy battles.

To "strike the flag" is to lower the national colors in token of submission to the opposing forces.

Dipping the flag is lowering it slightly and then hoisting it again, to salute either a vessel or fort.

A flag of truce is a white flag displayed to the enemy to indicate a desire for a parley or consultation.

The black flag is a sign of piracy. The yellow flag shows a vessel to be in quarantine or is the sign of a contagious disease.

A flag at half-mast means mourning. Vessels come into a harbor with a flag at half-mast to announce the loss or death of some of the crew.

Flags are used as a symbol of rank and command, the officers using them being called flag officers. Such flags are square, to distinguish them from other banners.

The red flag is a sign of defiance, and is often used by the revolutionists. In the American service it is a mark of danger and shows a vessel to be receiving or discharging her powder.

The white flag with a red cross is a sign of peace. After a battle, parties from both sides often go out to the field to rescue the wounded or bury the dead under the protection of such a flag.

## ANECDOTES AND INCIDENTS.

The first American flag that ever floated in a foreign port, it is claimed, was hoisted by Captain Thomas Mendenhall. This event took place in the spring of 1776, at St. Eustatius, one of the neutral islands during the Revolutionary war. In the winter of 1775, Robert Morris, Esq., financier for the Continental Congress, chartered the brig Nancy at Wilmington, Del. The ensuing year she sailed for Porto Rico under English colors, and landed at Don Antonio Seronia to secure arms and ammunition by a contract previously made with the British Government. From there the brig sailed to different islands to avoid suspicion.

At St. Croix and St. Thomas the brig took in produce by day and munitions of war by night. These were sent from St. Eustatius in small vessels. When the cargo was nearly completed, information was received that independence had been declared and a description was given of the colors adopted.

This, of course, was cheering news to the sailors, as they could then show their true colors and would not have to act clandestinely.

The necessary material for the making of the flag was at once procured, and a young man on board set to work privately to make it. The young man was Thomas Mendenhall, who afterward became a captain in the navy.

The brig was at once armed for defense and all things put in order ready to weigh anchor. On the day that the brig was to sail the captain invited the governor and suite and twenty other gentlemen on board to dine. A sumptuous dinner was served.

As the customs barges approached with the guests, the rowers were ordered to lie on their oars while a salute of thirteen guns was fired. Amid the firing young Mendenhall, upon orders, hauled down the English flag, and in its stead raised aloft the first flag of this country ever seen in a foreign port.

Cheers for the National Congress and cries of "Down with the lion, and up with the Stars and Stripes," accompanied the flag raising. The ancestors of Captain Thomas Mendenhall were of English stock, and after coming to this country settled at Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia, Pa. Captain Mendenhall left seven children.

His grandson, Mr. J. H. Mendenhall, is living in Ohio. Just at this time when our national ensign was commanding the attention of the whole civilized world, it is interesting to know that it was first unfolded 126 years ago.

Our flag was first saluted by a foreign power February 14, 1778, at Quiberon Bay, France, when the French Admiral La Motte Piquet first saluted the flag of the "Ranger," commanded by Captain Paul Jones.

Probably the Stars and Stripes were first unfurled August 2, 1777, over the United States military forces at Fort Stanwicks, afterward Fort Schuyler, where the town of Rome now stands. As the garrison had no colors, a flag was manufactured out of shirts for the white material, and the blue from one of the officer's cloaks, while the red was

obtained from different officers and soldiers, in smaller pieces. Though but a home-made standard, it was saluted with enthusiasm and delight.

On September 11, 1777, the Stars and Stripes were unfurled at the battle of Brandywine, the first military engagement in which they were displayed.

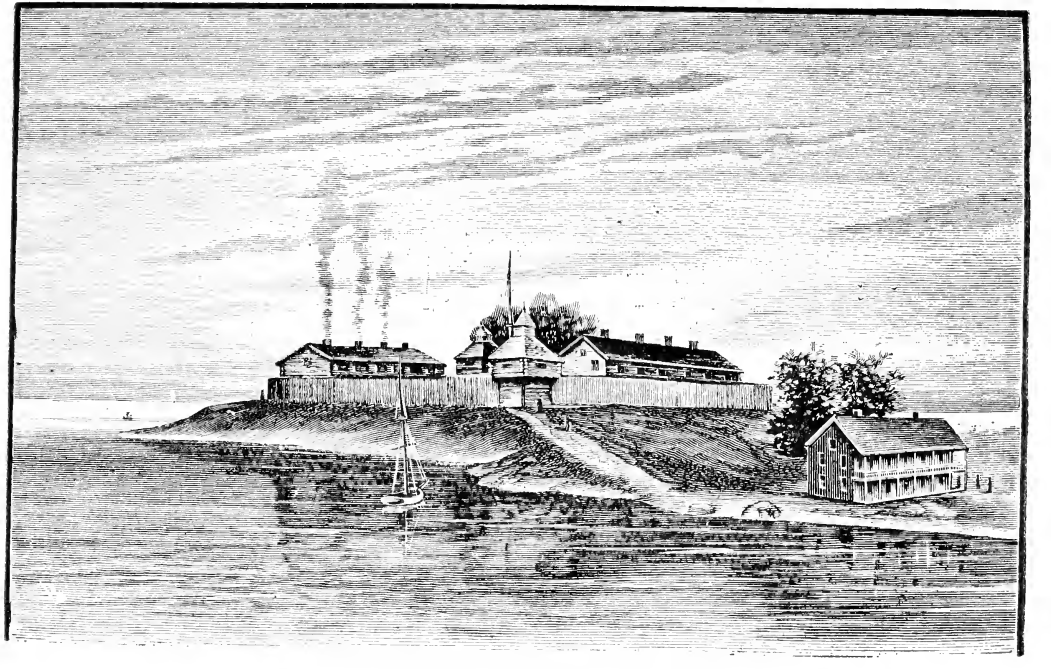
The flag first floated over a foreign and captured fort January 28, 1778, at Nassau. The distinction of unfurling the Stars and Stripes in a British port has been a matter of dispute. Commodore Preble, however, believes that this honor must be assigned to Captain William Moores, of the Bradford, from Nantucket, who raised the Stars and Stripes over his vessel at London, England, February 3, 1783.

In 1784, Captain John Green, of the Empress, first displayed our flag in China.

It is a very singular thing that the first blood shed upon foreign soil in any battle under the American flag was in Ireland. Not under the Union Jack of England, but under the Stars and Stripes of our own country did British soldiers fight.

A miniature battle occurred at Londonderry, Ireland, November 22, 1790. Its occasion was the gathering together of a mob which interfered with the workmen of Lemuel Cox, a distinguished American engineer, who had built a bridge of American oak over the river Foyle, at Londonderry. To keep out the crowd of visitors, he had the gates at either end closed. Over this bridge floated the Stars and Stripes. The people of Londonderry resented the closing of the gates, and a riot ensued, which was dispersed by the mayor and military of the town.

Our flag received its first salute from an English war



FORT DEARBORN, CHICAGO, ABOUT 1804-5.

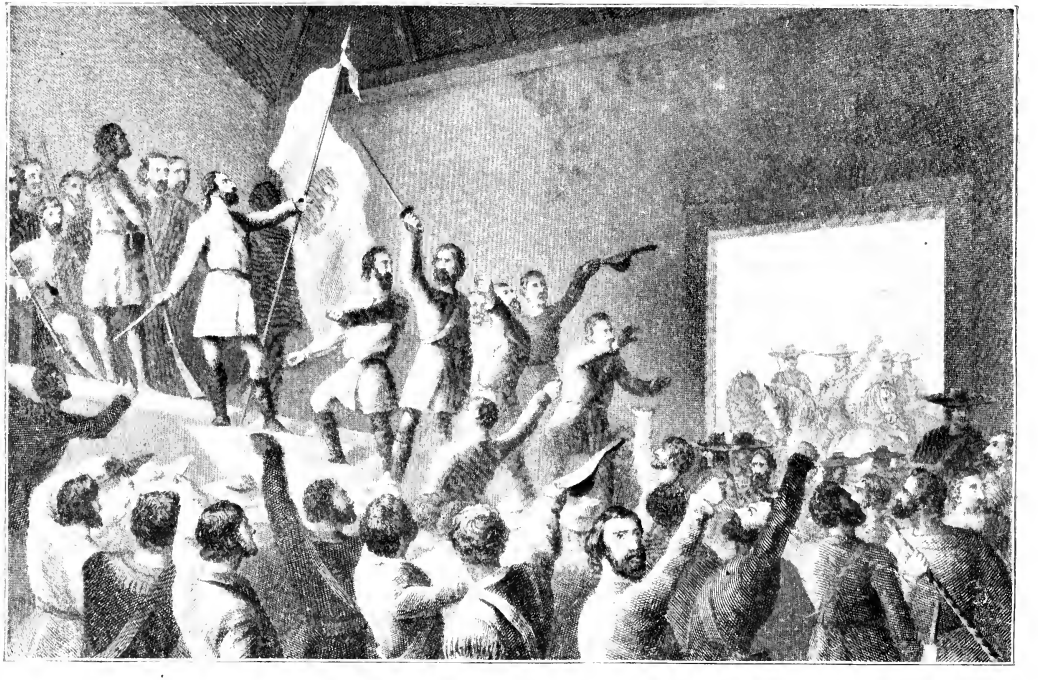
vessel at Boston, May 2, 1791. Captain Isaac Coffin, commanding the British man-of-war Alligator, honored the Stars and Stripes with a salute of thirteen guns, which was responded to by the fortress at the castle.

It first appeared on the great lakes in 1797, on a short lived schooner which was in that year launched in Erie, Pa. It first appeared in Chicago in 1803-4, when the troops arrived to construct Fort Dearborn.

The Stars and Stripes were first displayed in the fall of 1829 in what is now California. James P. Arthur, a native of Holland, and a citizen of Massachusetts, who was mate of a trading vessel, went with a party of sailors on shore at San Diego to cure hides. They manufactured a flag from the shirts of the party, which was hoisted to attract and salute vessels that might pass within sight of their camp. At that time there was no thought of that region becoming a portion of the United States.

A handful of Americans, in the early summer of 1846, determined to take possession of the Pacific coast in the name of the United States. They made a flag from the white cotton and red flannel underclothes of an elderly lady, who generously reduced her already scanty wardrobe for this purpose. On this flag there was depicted a bear, which was mistaken by the Spaniards for a hog. This "Hog Flag" was raised on June 14, 1846, at Sonoma, and is now in the possession of the Pioneer Society at San Francisco.

On July, 1846, General John C. Fremont presided over a party of Americans, at Sonoma, when it was determined to raise this flag over the country, and take possession of it in the name of the United States. To carry this out, war was declared against Mexico. Fremont and his associates



FREMONT RAISING THE FLAG AT SONOMA.

did not know at the time that war was already going on with that country.

Commodore Sloat, commanding the Savannah, raised the Stars and Stripes at Monterey, July 7, 1846, and on the following day Captain Montgomery, of the Portsmouth, raised the American ensign at Yerba-Buena, now at San Francisco.

Lieutenant Lynch carried the American flag over Palestine in 1848. It was raised at all the principal points, and on all important occasions in the Holy Land.

Lieutenant Stone hoisted the American flag on April 11, 1848, upon the extreme summit of Mount Popocatepetl, Mexico.

In May, 1861, Dr. Hayes lifted the Stars and Stripes in latitude 81 degrees, 25 minutes North, longitude 70 degrees, 30 minutes West.

It was carried to latitude 83 degrees, 24 minutes North, on May 13, 1882, by Lieutenant James B. Lockwood, of the 23rd U. S. Infantry and waved over its furthest point north.

It was carried to latitude 70 degrees, 14 minutes South, on March 24, 1839, by Lieutenant William M. Walker, of the Navy, and raised above its furthest point south.

It was first carried around the world on the ship Columbia, which sailed from Boston, September 30, 1787, and returned to that port by the way of the Cape of Good Hope, August 10, 1790. And it is interesting to note, it was this same ship Columbia, which, on the 11th of May, 1792, under the same commander, Robert Gray, entered the mouth of, and gave its name to, the great river of the Northwest.

On July 4, 1879, Lieutenant Frederick Schwalka, of the

BATTLE OF BUENA VISTA.

United States Army, raised the Stars and Stripes on the North Magnetic Pole.

The addition of the twenty-eighth star for Texas was speedily followed by the war with Mexico, and before that war had made much progress, the twenty-ninth star had been added for Iowa.

It was the flag of twenty-eight stars which was so gallantly upheld against the odds of four to one on the glorious field of Buena Vista, by Hardin's and Bissel's Illinois regiments; and it was the flag of twenty-nine stars which was borne by General Scott on his triumphal march from Vera Cruz to the City of Mexico.

The outbreak of the Civil War found thirty-four stars in the union of the flag. This was the constellation which shone on Grant at Fort Donelson, while at Appomatox two additional stars—thirty-six in all, smiled approval, we may believe, on the prowess of the same favored son of Illinois.

When, in 1794, it was proposed to add two additional stars to the flag, for Vermont and Kentucky, it was objected that within fifteen years, by such a rule, we might be obliged to have a flag with twenty stars. Although it was not until twenty-three years later that so many states were in the Union, no one probably would have then ventured to predict that forty-five stars would be in the constellation one hundred years after the Secretary of the Treasury proclaimed the revenue flag with its sixteen vertical stripes.

### MRS. BETSY ROSS.

The house in which Mrs. Ross made the first flag of the Union is still more or less a curiosity in Philadelphia, since

HOUSE OF MRS. BETSY ROSS, NO. 239 ARCH STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

it remains in precisely the condition it was in when Washington used to fuss there over his ruffles and laces. Mr. Mund, the present owner, is a small merchant, and lives over his shop. He keeps a stock of flags on hand and stores them in a small alcove in the attic.

It has been stated that when Li Hung Chang recently visited Philadelphia the citizens were requested to decorate their houses with bunting. Mr. Mund went up to the attic to get out his supply of new flags, when he discovered, away back in the alcove, still another flag, of which he knew nothing.

Covered with the dust and grime of a century, and its colors sadly faded, Mr. Mund pulled out an old American flag with the thirteen stars sewed on to the material just as Mrs. Ross had sewed them on the flag she made for Washington. It seems, then, that this was a pattern or first trial of the flag, and not being satisfied with her handiwork she had made another, which she sent to Congress.

Information from Mr. Mund has just been received by the editor that this statement has no foundation in fact.

Curiously enough, history throws no light on the question as to who designed the drawing of the flag that Washington first brought to Betsy Ross. Congressional records make no mention of such a design, and as no one has ever contradicted him it seems possible that the design was revised, gone over, and finally completed that day in the little back parlor by Washington, Morris, and Betsy Ross.

As to the fact that Betsy Ross actually made the first Stars and Stripes there is indisputable proof. Mr. Canby, soon after reading a paper before one of the Historical Societies, which caused considerable controversy at the time, wrote an open letter in which he said:

"It is not tradition; it is report, from the lips of the principal participators in the transaction directly told, not to one or two, but a dozen of living witnesses, of whom I myself am one, being a boy of eleven when Mrs. Ross died in our house, and whom I well remember telling the story. My mother and two of her sisters are living (this was written in 1870) and I often heard the narrative from their lips. The occasion was prior to the Declaration of Independence. I fix the date to be during Washington's visit to Congress from New York, when he came to confer upon the affairs of the army, the adoption of a flag, no doubt, being one of them."

This matter being settled, the question arises, "When were these Stars and Stripes first flung to the breeze?" Canby says that the Stars and Stripes were in common use soon after the Declaration of Independence. Admirable Preble says not, and for a year at least there seems to have been a jumble of continental and state flags with the Stars and Stripes.

### PAUL JONES' ENSIGN.

An interesting ceremony occurred in the White House on December 8, 1898, in the presentation to President McKinley for deposit in the National museum, of the flag of the United States frigate, Bon Homme Richard. The presentation was made by Mrs. Harriet R. P. Stafford, of Cottage City, Mass.

The flag flew from the Bon Homme Richard during the famous action with the British frigate Serapis, on Sept. 23, 1779, and in a history of the ensign, which Mrs. Stafford handed to the President, it is said that "there is evidence for the claim that it was the first flag bearing the

Stars and Stripes ever hoisted over an American vessel of war, and the first that was ever saluted by a foreign naval power."

The flag had been in the possession of the Stafford family for more than a hundred years. It was presented to James Bayard Stafford, a midshipman, on Dec. 13, 1784, by the marine committee of the Congress then in session at Philadelphia, "for your meritorious services through the late war."

In the letter bestowing the flag on Midshipman Stafford it was left to his daughter, the late Miss Sarah Smith Stafford, and it was left by her to her brother, Samuel Bayard Stafford, through whom it came into possession of the donor.

The captain of the Serapis was knighted for gallantry displayed in this fight, and in speaking of it Jones remarked: "Never mind; if I meet him again I will make him a lord."

This emblem has only twelve stars in its blue field, and was evidently made before Rhode Island ratified the Constitution. There are documents with the emblem which prove beyond doubt all the claims which are made. It is now on exhibition in the museum, and it attracts much attention, as it is one of the most historic relics which has come into possession of the government for many years.

### FLAG OVER FORT SCHUYLER.

It was probably at Fort Schuyler, then besieged by the British, that the Stars and Stripes received its baptism of fire. The beleaguered patriots had some difficulty in finding materials of the proper color. They had to cut up linen shirts for the white stripes, and to piece together pieces of scarlet cloth for the red, while a fine blue camlet

cloak, captured from a British officer, served for the field. The flag's first important battle was that of Brandywine, where it suffered a defeat that was speedily and amply avenged when it flew in triumph at the capture of Burgoyne's army at Saratoga.

### FLAG OVER NEW YORK.

New York was the last American city to greet the Stars and Stripes, more than six years after its adoption as our national banner. King George's colors dominated the metropolis from a few days after the disastrous battle of Long Island till the end of the war. On the day agreed upon for the evacuation of the city—November 25, 1783—when the American troops reached the Battery at three o'clock in the afternoon they found a British flag hoisted there upon a tall pole, with the halyards cut away. The departing garrison, the last of whom had just embarked, evidently wished to see their colors flying as long as they were in sight of land; but a young American soldier, Van Arsdale by name, climbed the pole, tore down the offending ensign, and set the Stars and Stripes aloft, in full view of the retreating squadron.

It is recorded, however, that the flag had been flown in New York earlier in the day. At sunrise a local boarding-house keeper, whose name history does not seem to have preserved, ran up the Stars and Stripes over his residence. His daring action was reported to Cunningham, the British provost marshal, who ordered the rebel ensign down, as the garrison claimed military possession up to the hour of noon. The order being disregarded, Cunningham came in person to haul down the flag. Before he could touch it the mistress of the house rallied to its

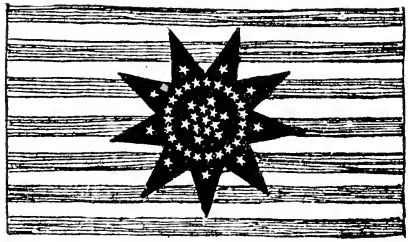
defense with a broomstick, which she wielded with such vigor and success that the provost marshal retreated in confusion, with the loss of most of the powder in his wig.

### THE ORIGIN OF COLORS.

The origin of the colors, red, white and blue, has been supposedly traced to several different sources. Some have found the antecedents for our stripes in the Dutch flag elsewhere spoken of and described. One theory is that they were borrowed from Washington's coat-of-arms; but there is for this only a very slight foundation, and it is not now seriously considered.

The British East India Company's flag has been referred to and described as an antetype suggestive of the Stripes and Union or Continental Standard.

There have been innumerable theories as to the origin of the blue color in the union and of the white stars placed



therein. Many of these theories are very suggestive; some of them wonderfully ingenious, and each one of them is, of course, more or less plausible.

One writer is eloquent in these words: "Every nation has its symbolic ensign. Some have beasts, some birds, some fish, some reptiles on their banners. Our father chose

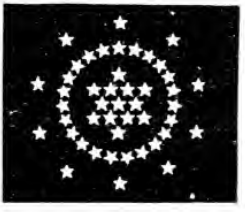
the Stars and Stripes—the red telling of the blood shed by them for their country, the blue telling of the heavens and their protection, and the stars announcing the different States embodied in one nationality, E. Pluribus Unum."

RECONSTRUCTING THE FLAG.

It is proposed by a Cincinnati citizen to reconstruct the flag as given in the engraving. The inner cluster of stars represents the thirteen states which created the union. The surrounding circle contains twenty-three stars—the number equaling that of the states admitted to the union up to the close of the civil war, this noble cluster typifying the welding together and perfect preservation of the Union. The outer circle contains the new states and it will be seen that there is room for many more.

Another form has been suggested by those who have earnestly considered the subject.

In the cut herein given three different things have been taken into account, which should receive attention in constructing the flag—historical significance, symmetry and adaptability.



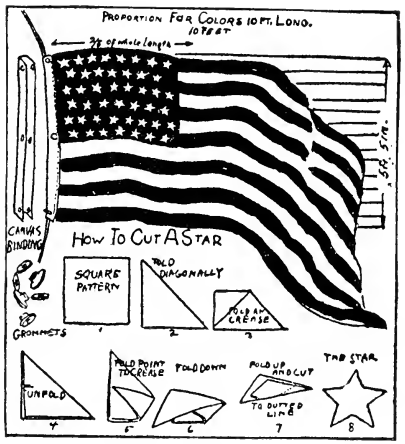
The stars should be so arranged that it will not be necessary to make any noticeable change when the new ones are added. The stars should always remain equal in size, representing the equality of the States.

In the form which is submitted, with the group of thirteen stars in the center, representing the thirteen original States, they are arranged in exactly the same form as they appear on the great seal of the United States. The circle containing twenty-three stars represents the States which

were admitted to the Union up to the close of the civil war. These two features are symbolic of the two great events in the nation's history—the one which brought our flag into existence, and the other which made its life permanent by welding the sisterhood of States into a perfect and indestructible union. The circle is also symbolic of unity, peace and preservation.

MAKING A FLAG NOT HARD WORK.

The width of a stripe on the American flag is invariably half the length, in inches, of the flag's longest measurement. For example, a flag 22 feet long has 13 11-inch wide stripes. For a flag 10 feet long the stripes should be 5 inches wide. Accordingly the flag should have a width of 5 feet 5 inches. In cutting the stripes from your bunting allow an extra half inch to the edge of each for the seam. Make all seams felled and sew stripes in the same direction.




The field should be of navy blue bunting measuring seven stripes deep and extending two-fifths across the length of the flag. When the field has been stitched to the body of the flag finish the three sides, omitting that next to the pole, by a stout hem. Never use cotton thread in sewing any part of the flag, as cotton will break with the stress of

windy weather to which a flag is necessarily subjected. Silk is the proper thing to use.

By carefully studying out the diagram in the illustration you will be able after a few attempts to make a star of the desired size and shape. Be careful to cut it at such an angle that the lines from point to point extend straight across the star. A star may be ever so symmetrical, but it will not be correct unless attention is paid to this detail.

## The Author of Our National Song.

### "THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER."

The son of the revolutionary soldier, Francis Scott Key, was born in Frederick County, Maryland, the 9th of August, 1780, and died in Baltimore the 11th of January, 1843. His life of nearly sixty-three years was an unbroken idyl of tranquil happiness; amid congenial scenes; among kindred people; blessed by wedded love and many children, and accompanied by the successful pursuit of the learned profession he had chosen for himself.

Goldsmith's sketch of the village preacher may not be inaptly quoted to describe his unambitious and unobtrusive career:

Remote from towns he ran his godly race,
Nor e'er had changed, nor wished to change, his place.

Yet it was reserved for this constant and modest gentleman to leave behind a priceless legacy to his name for all time with his country's flag.

The "Star-Spangled Banner" owed very little to chance. It was the emanation of a patriotic fervor as sincere and natural as it was simple and noble. It sprang from one of those glorious inspirations which, coming to an author

unbidden, seizes at once upon the hearts and minds of people. The occasion seemed to have been created for the very purpose. The man and the hour were met, and the song came; and truly was song never yet born amid such scenes.

We explore the pages of folk-lore, we read the story of popular music in vain, to find the like. Even the authorship of the English national anthem is in dispute. The "Marseillaise" did, indeed, owe its being to the passions of war and burst forth in profuse strains of melody above the clang of arms; but it was attended by those theatrical accessories which preside over and minister to Latin emotion, and seem indispensable to its development, and it is believed to have derived as much of its enthusiasm from the wine-cup as from the drum-beat.

Key's song was the very child of battle.

It was rocked by cannon in the cradle of the deep. Its clothes were the Stars and Stripes its birth proclaimed. Its coming was heralded by shot and shell, and from its baptism of fire, a nation of freedom clasped it to its bosom.

It was to be thenceforth and forever freedom's "Gloria in Excelsis."

The circumstances which ushered it into the world, hardly less than the words of the poem, are full of patriotic exhilaration.

It was during the darkest period. An English army had invaded and occupied the seat of the national government and had burned the Capitol of the nation. An English squadron was in undisputed possession of the Chesapeake Bay. There being nothing of interest or value left in the vicinity of Washington to detain them, the British were massing their land and naval forces for other conquests,

and as their ships sailed down the Potomac, Dr. William Beanes, a prominent citizen of Maryland, who had been arrested in his home in upper Marlboro charged with some offense, real or fancied, was carried off a prisoner.

It was to secure the liberation of this gentleman, his neighbor and friend, that Francis Scott Key obtained leave of the President to go to the British Admiral under a flag of truce. He was conveyed by the cartel boat used for the purpose of exchanging prisoners and accompanied by the flag officer of the government. They proceeded down the bay from Baltimore and found the British fleet at the mouth of the Potomac.

Mr. Key was courteously received by Admiral Cochrane; but he was not encouraged as to the success of the mission until letters from the English officers wounded at Bladensburg and left in the care of the Americans were delivered to the friends on the fleet to whom they had written.

These bore such testimony to the kindness with which they had been treated that it was finally agreed that Dr. Beanes should be released; but, as an advance upon Baltimore was about to be made it was required that the party of Americans should remain under the guard on board their own vessel until these operations were concluded.

Thus it was that, the night of the 14th of December, 1814, Key witnessed the bombardment of Fort McHenry, which his song was to render forever illustrious.

He did not quit the deck the long night through. With his single companion, the flag officer, he watched every shell from the moment it was fired until it fell, "listening with breathless interest to hear if an explosion followed."

HENRY WATTERSON.

Chief Justice Taney, Mr. Key's brother-in-law, says, "The scene which he describes, and the warm spirit of patriotism which breathes in the song, were not the offspring of mere fancy or poetic imagination. He describes what he actually saw, and he tells us what he felt while witnessing the conflict, and what he felt when the battle was over and the victory won by his countrymen. Every word came warm from his heart, and for that reason, even more than its poetical merit, it never fails to find response in the hearts of those who listen to it. It was originally called

'THE DEFENSE OF FORT M'HENRY,'

and this is the heading given it when first printed on slips and published in 'The Baltimore American.'"

## The Flag of Fort McHenry.

The flag of Fort McHenry, whose broad stripes and bright stars inspired Francis Scott Key's song, still exists in a tolerable state of preservation. The regulation size of the garrison flags at the present time is thirty-six feet fly and twenty feet hoist.

The flag of Fort McHenry, in its present curtailed dimensions, is thirty-two feet long and twenty-nine feet hoist. Undoubtedly, originally it was forty feet long. The shots of the enemy and time have combined to decrease its length.

Its great width is due to its having fifteen instead of thirteen stripes, each nearly two feet wide. It had fifteen five-pointed stars, each two feet from point to point, arranged in five indented parallel lines, three stars in each horizontal line. The union rests in the ninth stripe, which

is red, instead of the eighth, a white stripe, as in our present flag. All the flags worn by the Navy and Army during the war of 1811-14 were made this way; in fact, they were so arranged from 1794 to 1818.

This flag was exhibited in the naval department of the centennial exhibition, in Philadelphia, and again at the Old South Church, Boston, June 14th, 1877, the centennial anniversary of the passage by the Continental Congress of the act adopting the star-spangled banner as the emblem of the Confederate States.

There is no doubt as to the authenticity of this flag. It was preserved by Colonel Armsted, and bears his name and date of the bombardment. It has always remained in his family, and his widow, in 1861, bequeathed it to their youngest daughter, Mrs. Stuart Appleton, who, soon after the bombardment, was born in Fort McHenry under its folds. Mrs. Appleton died July 25th, 1878, and bequeathed the flag to her son, who now holds it.

A letter from Mrs. Caroline Purdy, of Baltimore, to Mrs. Appleton, describes the making of this historic flag:

"It was made by my mother, and I assisted her. The flag being so very large, my mother was obliged to obtain permission from the proprietor of a brewery to spread it out in their malt-house, and I remember seeing my mother down on the floor placing the stars. The flag, I think, contained four hundred yards, and we worked many nights until 12 o'clock to complete it in a given time."

Francis Scott Key, Author of "The Star Spangled Banner."

# PATRIOTIC SELECTIONS AND RECITATIONS.

## THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER.

O H! say, can you see by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare,
The bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh! say, does the star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam
Of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines on the stream.
'Tis the star-spangled banner; oh! long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

And where is the foe that so vauntingly swore
'Mid the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,
A home and a country they'd leave us no more?
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save
The hireling and slave
From the terror or flight or the gloom of the grave:
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Oh! thus be it ever when freemen shall stand
Between their loved homes and war's desolation;
Blest with victory and peace, may the Heav'n-rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation!
Then conquer we must,
When our cause it is just,
And this be our motto, "In God is our trust";
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

[The "Star-Spangled Banner" has been printed, recited and sung with many variations from its original form. There have also been frequent substitutions of lines and stanzas, with not a few additions, to serve a temporary or local necessity.]

## HOW THEY SANG THE "STAR-SPANGLED BANNER" WHEN LINCOLN WAS INAUGURATED.

I was in Washington a few days prior to the inauguration of Lincoln in 1861, having been sent by the Harpers to take sketches when that event should come off. I did nothing but walk around the city and feel the public pulse, so to speak. There was no necessity of saying anything to anybody. You intuitively recognized that trouble was brewing. Many people had sworn that Lincoln should not be inaugurated. Their utterances had fired the Northern heart, and the people loyal to the old flag were just as determined that the lawfully elected President should be inaugurated, though blood should flow in the attempt.

It was an awful time. People looked different then than they do now. Little knots of men could be seen conversing together in whispers on street corners, and even the whispers ceased when a person unknown to them approached. Everybody seemed to suspect every one else. Women looked askance at each other, and children obliged to be out, would skurry home as if frightened, probably having been given warning by the parents.

The streets at night, for several nights prior to the inaugural ceremonies, were practically deserted. There was a hush over everything. It seemed to me that the shadow of death was hovering near. I had constantly floating before my eyes sable plumes and trappings of woe. I could hear dirges constantly, and thought for a while that I would have to leave the place or go crazy.

I knew that all these somber thoughts were but imagination, but I also knew that the something which had influenced my imagination was tangible, really existed.

The 4th of March came and Mr. Lincoln was inaugurated quietly and without ostentation. After the services were over and it became known that Mr. Lincoln had really been inducted into office there was a savage snarl went up from the disaffected ones.

The snarl was infectious.

It was answered by just as savage growls all over the city. But nothing was said. A single yell of defiance, a pistol-shot, or even an oath would have precipitated a conflict.

Men simply glared at each other and gnashed their teeth, but were careful not to grit them so it could be heard. I went to my room in

the Willard and sat down to do some work. I couldn't work. The stillness was oppressive.

At least a dozen times I picked up my pencils, only to throw them down again. I got up and paced the floor nervously. I heard men on either side of me doing the same thing. Walking didn't relieve the severe mental strain. I sat down in my chair and pressed my head in my hands.

Suddenly I heard a window go up and some one step out on the balcony of the Ebbitt House, directly opposite. Everybody in the hotel had heard him.

What is he going to do? I asked myself, and I suppose every one else propounded the same mental interrogation.

We hadn't to wait long.

He began to sing the "Star-Spangled Banner" in a clear, strong voice.

The effect was magical, electrical. One window went up, and another, and heads popped out all over the neighborhood. People began to stir on the streets. A crowd soon gathered. The grand old song was taken up and sung by thousands.

The spell was broken, and when the song was finished tongues were loosened, and cheer after cheer rent the air.

The man rooming next to me rapped on my door and insisted that I should take a walk with him. As we passed along the corridors we were joined by others, men wild with joy, some of them weeping and throwing their arms around each other's neck.

Others were singing, and all were happy.

Washington was itself again. The "Star-Spangled Banner" had saved it.

—*Thomas Nast.*

## THE NATIONAL ENSIGN.

The national ensign, pure and simple, dearer to all our hearts at this moment, as we lift it to the gale and see no other sign of hope upon the storm-cloud which rolls and settles above it save that which is reflected from its own radiant hues—dearer, a thousandfold dearer, to us all than ever it was before while gilded by the sunshine of prosperity and playing with the zephyrs of peace.

It speaks for itself far more eloquent than I can speak for it.

Behold it! Listen to it! Every star has a tongue. Every stripe is articulate. There is no language or speech where their voices are not heard. There's magic in the web of it. It has an answer for every question. It has a solution for every doubt and every perplexity. It has a word of good cheer for every hour of gloom or despondency.

Behold it! Listen to it!

It speaks of earlier and later struggles. It speaks of heroes and patriots among the living and among the dead.

But before all, and above all other associates and memories, whether of glorious men, or glorious deeds, or glorious places, its voice is ever of union and liberty, of the constitution and the laws.

Behold it! Listen to it!

Let it tell the story of its birth to these gallant volunteers as they march beneath its folds by day or repose beneath its sentinel stars by night. Let it recall to them the strange, eventful history of its rise and progress. Let it rehearse to them the wondrous tale of its trials and its triumphs in peace and war.

—*Robert C. Winthrop.*

## THE AMERICAN FLAG.

When Freedom, from her mountain height,
  Unfurled her standard to the air,
She tore the azure robe of night
  And set the stars of glory there!
She mingled with its glorious dyes
The milky baldric of the skies,
And striped its pure, celestial white
With streakings of the morning light.
Then, from her mansion in the sun,
She called her eagle-bearer down,
And gave into his mighty hand
The symbol of her chosen land.

Majestic monarch of the cloud!
  Who rear'st aloft thy regal form
To hear the tempest-trumpings loud,
  When strive the warriors of the storm,
And see the lightning glances driven,
And rolls the thunder-drum of heaven—
Child of the sun! to thee 'tis given
  To guard the banner of the free,

To hover in the sulphur smoke,
To ward away the battle stroke,
And bid its blendings shine afar,
Like rainbows on the cloud of war,
The harbingers of victory!

Flag of the brave! thy folds shall fly,
The sign of hope and triumph high!
When speaks the signal-trumpet tone
And the long lines come gleaming on,
Ere yet the life-blood, warm and wet,
Has dimmed the glistening bayonet,
Each soldier's eye shall brightly turn
To where thy skyborn glories burn.

Flag of the seas! on ocean wave
Thy stars shall glitter o'er the brave;
When death, careering on the gale,
Sweeps darkly round the bellied sail,
And frightened waves rush wildly back
Before the broadside's reeling rack,
Each dying wanderer of the sea
Shall look at once to heaven and thee,
And smile to see thy splendors fly
In triumph o'er his closing eye.

Flag of the free heart's hope and home,
By angel hands to valor given,
Thy stars have lit the welkin dome,
And all thy hues were born in heaven.
Forever float that standard sheet!
Where breathes the foe but falls before us,
With Freedom's soil beneath our feet,
And Freedom's banner streaming o'er us?

—*James Rodman Drake.*

## STAND BY THE FLAG.

Let us twine each thread of the glorious tissue of our country's flag about our heart-strings, and looking upon our homes and catching the spirit which breathes upon us from the battlefield of our fathers, let us resolve that, come weal or woe, we will in life and in death, now and forever, stand by the Stars and Stripes. They have floated over our cradles; let it be our prayer and our struggle that they shall float over our graves. They have been unfurled from the snows of Canada to the plains of New Orleans, to the halls of the

Montezumas, and amid the solitude of every sea, and everywhere, as the luminous symbol of resistless and beneficent power, and they led the brave and the free to victory and to glory.

—*Hon. Joseph Holt.*

## THE FLAG OF OUR UNION.

A song for our banner; the watchword recall
Which gave the Republic her station;
United we stand, divided we fall!
It made and preserves us a nation!
The union of lakes—the union of lands,
The union of States none can sever—
The union of hearts—the union of hands,
And the flag of our Union forever.

CHORUS:

Forever, forever, forever!
The union of hearts—the union of hands,
And the flag of our Union forever.

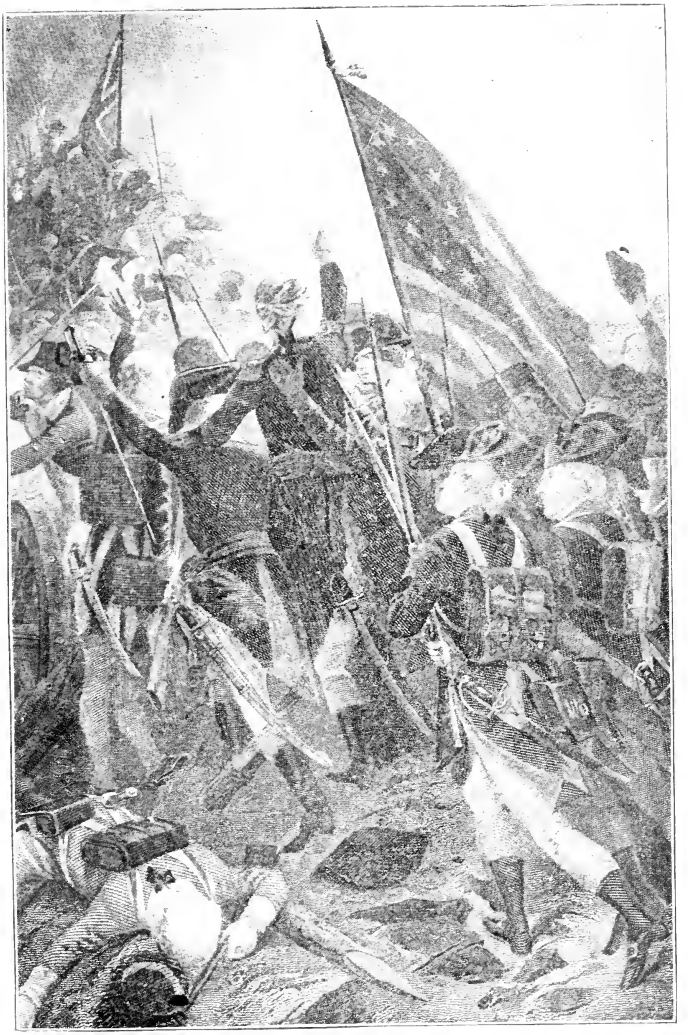
What God in his infinite wisdom designed,
And armed with his weapon of thunder,
Not all the earth's despots and factions combined,
Have the power . . . to conquer or sunder!
The union of lakes—the union of lands,
The union of States none can sever—
The union of hearts—the union of hands,
And the flag of our Union forever.—CHORUS.

—*George P. Morris.*

It is said that a colonel of a Connecticut regiment once in presenting the colors, the stars and stripes, which the color-sergeant was to carry thereafter, made to him this speech: He said, "Color-bearer, take this flag; fight for it; ah! die for it, but never yield it into the hands of the enemy." The color-sergeant—and he was but a lad of eighteen—with the red wine of life coursing through his veins, spoke back to the colonel: "Colonel, I will bring that flag back to you in honor, or I will report to God the reason why." Within a week that color-sergeant fell, but he fell with the Stars and Stripes upon his breast. He did not take it back, but God Almighty knew the reason why. He gave the best he had—his own life's blood—to save it.

—*William McKinley.*

Although the flag of the Union may have sometimes drooped in



BATTLE OF STONY POINT, N. Y., JULY 16, 1779.

disaster, it has always risen again, and as it fluttered to the breeze its stripes seemed always brighter and its blue always of a clearer hue.

And here in our fair land, although at times anarchy may flaunt her crimson banners, although now and then lawlessness may prevail, the truest flag that waves shall always triumph in splendor and glory.

—*Hugh Belknap, M. C.*

## WHAT CHARM'S IN A BANNER?

What charm's in a banner? Be it borne by a host,
A fragment of bunting or silk, at the most.
Emblazoned by crescent or wrought with the cross,
An emblem of triumph, a token of loss.
As gaily would float in the breezes of morn,
As softly would fold round the patriot's form,
A breadth of yon silk from the looms of Cathay,
As the starry-gemmed banner you honor to-day.

RESPONSE:

What charm's in a banner? Go, ask where they lie,
In blue coats or gray, 'neath the soft Southern sky.
What charm's in a banner? Let May breezes tell
Of the blossoms they strewed where the banner folds fell.
What charm's in a banner? To lands of the sun,
A pilgrim from home, let your weary feet come,
And see if your pulses no quicker will beat
When the flag of the homeland your vision shall greet.

What charm's in a banner? Go, count if you can,
The courage it breathes to the way-weary man;
Its lessons of patience—God's ages are long,
But the stars in their courses do fight 'gainst the wrong.
Its lessons of love, and of hope, and of praise,
Its anthems upborne to the Ancient of Days,
Its murmurs of prayer, while its bright bands unfurl
Alike o'er God's image in ebon or pearl.

## AMERICAN YOUTH AND THE FLAG.

Wherever floats the starry flag, where duty calls the citizen to come, wherever the Constitution is threatened, wherever the scales are torn from the hand of Justice, and whenever American Rights,

American Liberty and American Prosperity are in danger—American youth must fill up the Nation's ranks in their defense.

—*Col. D. B. Henderson.*

## OUR NATIONAL BANNER.

All hail to our glorious ensign! courage to the heart, and strength to the hand, to which, in all time, it shall be intrusted! May it ever

RAISING THE FLAG.

Specially photographed for the "Story of the American Flag."

wave in honor, in unsullied glory, and patriotic hope, on the dome of the capitol, on the country's stronghold, on the entented plain, and on the wave-rocked topmast.

Wherever on the earth's surface the eye of the American shall be-

hold it, may he have reason to bless it! On whatsoever spot it is planted, there may freedom have a foothold, humanity a brave champion, and religion an altar.

Though stained with blood in a righteous cause, may it never in any cause be stained with shame. Alike when its gorgeous folds shall wanton in lazy holiday triumphs on the summer breeze, and its tattered fragments be dimly seen through the clouds of war, may it be the joy and the pride of the American heart.

First raised in the cause of right and liberty, in that cause alone may it forever spread out its streaming blazonry to the battle and the storm. Having been borne victoriously across the continent, and in every sea, may virtue, and freedom, and peace forever follow where it leads the way.

—*Hon. Edward Everett.*

## STAND BY THE FLAG.

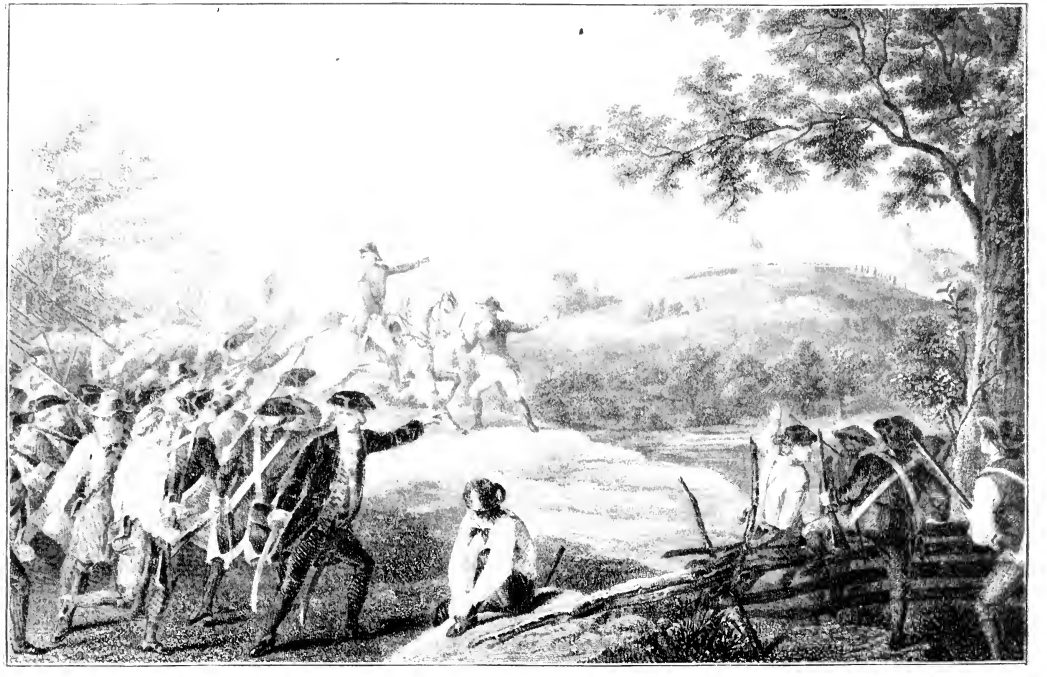
Stand by the flag; its folds have streamed in glory,—
To foes a fear, to friends a festal robe,—
And spread in rhythmic lines the sacred story
Of Freedom's triumphs over all the globe.
Stand by the flag! on land, and ocean billow;
By it our fathers stood, unmoved and true;
Living, defended; dying, from their pillow,
With their last blessing, passed it on to you.

Stand by the flag! though death-shots round it rattle,
And underneath its waving folds have met,
In all the dread array of sanguine battle,
The quivering lance and glittering bayonet.
Stand by the flag! all doubt and treason scorning,
Believe, with courage firm and faith sublime,
That it will float until the eternal morning
Pales in its glories all the lights of time.

—*Anonymous.*

And then the flag! We talk of the flag, the flag, the flag! to every soldier of the Union it has a strange and precious meaning. There is written upon its folds that which has to us the greatest inspiration and significance. It is our desire that that flag, every stain having been washed from its folds, shall float proudly over this land of ours, and that it shall be respected all around this great globe.

—*General Eli Torrance,*
(Ex-Commander-in-Chief Grand Army of the Republic.)



BATTLE OF BENNINGTON, VT., AUG. 15-16, 1777.

We look upon our country with pride and satisfaction. It has outstripped all other nations in strength and power. Its standards are high; its good name unsullied by any reckless executive act. Its flag was never more respected, and its wholesome influence upon the world was never more potent than now.

*—U. S. Senator Charles W. Fairbanks.*

It has been said that this is the rich man's country. I deny it. It is the poor boy's country; it is our country; it is that country whose flag is the symbol for fair play throughout Christendom, and for the triumph of commerce and for a world-wide humanity—the greatest country on earth.

*—Hon. Charles B. Landis, M. C.*

Hail to our banner brave,
All o'er the land and wave,
To-day unfurled!
No folds to us so fair
Thrown on the summer air,
None can with thee compare,
In all the world.

*-W. P. Tilden.*

## UNITED STATES NATIONAL ANTHEM.

God of the free! upon Thy breath
Our Flag is for the Right unrolled,
As broad and brave as when its stars
First lit the hallowed time of old.

For Duty still its folds shall fly;
For Honor still its glories burn,
Where Truth, Religion, Valor, guard
The patriot's sword and martyr's urn.

No tyrant's impious step is ours;
No lust of power on nations rolled;
Our flag—for friends, a starry sky,
For foes a storm in every fold.

O thus we'll keep our Nation's life,
Nor fear the bolt by despots hurled;
The blood of all the world is here,
And they who strike us, strike the world!

God of the Free! our Nation bless
  In its strong manhood as its birth;
And make its life a star of hope,
  For all the struggling of the Earth.

Then shout beside thine Oak, O North!
  O South! wave answer with thy Palm;
And in our Union's heritage
  Together sing the Nation's Psalm.

—*W. R. Wallace.*

## OUR FLAG.

When the standard of the Union is raised and waves over my head—the standard which Washington planted on the ramparts of the Constitution—God forbid that I should inquire whom the people have commissioned to unfurl it and bear it up! I only ask in what manner, as an humble individual, I can best discharge my duty in defending it. —*Daniel Webster.*

## "LIBERTY AND UNION, ONE AND INSEPARABLE."

There floats our glorious ensign,
  There still our eagles fly!
And lives the coward heart or hand
  Dare pluck them from the sky?

Still floats our glorious ensign,
  And still our eagles soar,
No weeping eyes now fear to gaze
  And see them fly no more.

Oh! brethren in the Union strong,
  Bethink you of the day
When our sires beneath that banner,
  Rushed eager to the fray;

When first its glories were unfurled
  O'er Freedom's sacred ground,
And thirteen States confederate stood,
  In loyal union bound.

Its stripes were dyed at Monmouth;
  In Brandywine's red stream;
On Saratoga's trampled plain;
  By Lexington's sad green.

Its stars shone out o'er Bunker's height;
Fort Moultrie saw them gleam;
And high o'er Yorktown's humble camp
They flashed in dazzling sheen.

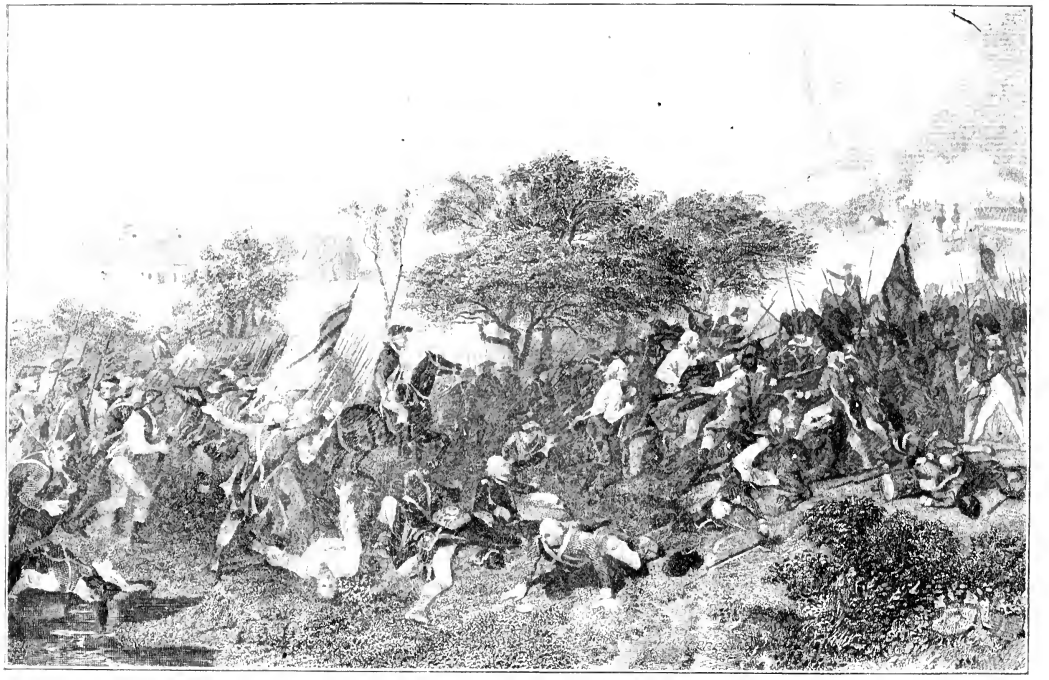
We know no North, nor South, nor West;
One Union binds us all;
Its stars and stripes are o'er us flung—
'Neath them we'll stand or fall.

—*F. A. H.*

What eloquence do the stars breathe when their full significance is known; a new constellation, union, perpetuity, a covenant against oppression, justice, equality, subordination, courage and purity.

—*Rear-Admiral George H. Preble.*

Our flag carries American ideas, American history and American feelings. Beginning with the colonies, and coming down to our time, in its sacred heraldry, in its glorious insignia, it has gathered



BATTLE OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY, JUNE 28, 1777.

and stored chiefly this supreme idea: Divine right of liberty in man. Every color means liberty; every thread means liberty; every form of star and beam or stripe of light means liberty; not lawlessness, not license, but organized institutional liberty—liberty through law, and law for liberty. It is a whole national history. It is the Constitution. It is the government. It is the free people that stand in the government on the constitution.

—*Rev. Henry Ward Beecher.*

How I do wish that you could have looked down upon us when we threw the "Stars and Stripes" to the breeze at 12 o'clock on the 26th. Our chaplain thanked God for having brought us from our place of danger, and prayed for our country, that our flag might long continue to wave over a united and happy people. The flag was then raised, the command presenting arms, and the band playing "The Star-Spangled Banner," after which three cheers were given for the flag and three for the Union.

—*Robert Anderson.*

Oh, God of our fathers! this banner must shine
Where battle is hottest, in warfare divine;
The cannon has thundered, the bugle has blown,
We fear not the summons, we fight not alone.
Oh, lead us till wide from the gulf to the sea
The land shall be sacred to freedom and Thee.
With love for the oppressed, with blessing for scars,
One country, one banner—the stripes and the stars.

—*Edna Dean Proctor.*

## THE FLAG.

Hail! all hail! to Columbia's flag,
Flag of Liberty, Justice and Truth;
She shall wave it forever and aye,
Like an eagle renewing her youth.

CHORUS:
Then all hail to the Stars and the Stripes!
To the flag of the brave and the free;
And as long as the stars shall endure
Shall it wave o'er the land and the sea.

The Pacific shall mirror its stars;
With its stripes the Atlantic shall glow,
From the Gulf to the Lakes shall it wave,
O'er hill, plain and valley below.—CHORUS.

'Neath the flag was our liberty born,
And our nation to greatness has grown;
For our banner on land and at sea
Is the Star-Spangled Banner alone.—CHORUS.

With its stripes is our history entwined,
By its stars is our future illumed;
He who fails to defend it to-day
To the fate of the traitor is doomed.—CHORUS.

When our fathers their freedom maintained
The Almighty himself was their friend;
And, whatever the foes that assail,
May He us and our children defend.—CHORUS.

*—Rev. Thomas Hill, D. D.,*
Ex-President Harvard University.

I have served my country under the flag of the Union for more than fifty years, and as long as God permits me to live I will defend that flag with my sword, even if my own State assails it.

*—Lieut.-Gen. Winfield Scott.*

And everywhere
The slender, graceful spars
Pose aloft in the air,
And at the masthead,
White, blue and red,
A flag unrolls—the Stripes and Stars.
Oh, when the wanderer, lonely, friendless,
In foreign harbors shall behold
The flag unrolled,
'Twill be as a friendly hand
Stretched out from his native land,
Filling his heart with memories sweet and endless!

*—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.*

If I had my way I would hang the flag in every schoolroom and attempt to impress upon all the supreme value of their inheritance.

*—Prof. Andrew S. Draper.*

I am unmoved by any rancor or spirit of hatred, God forbid; but I am a Union soldier, and I love my flag, and I say here, and I will say everywhere, that for Americans there is but one flag—the flag of Bunker Hill, and Saratoga, and Yorktown; the flag of

Lundy's Lane, Lake Champlain, and Erie, and New Orleans; the flag of Scott, McDonough, Perry, and Jackson; the flag of Lincoln, the flag of Hancock, the flag of Grant, the flag of Washington. It

General Daniel E. Sickles in Procession of the Grand Army of the Republic, Chicago, 1900.

is the only flag that represents the right, and in our charity let us not forget the difference between right and wrong.

—*Gen. Daniel E. Sickles.*

If any one attempts to haul down the American flag, shoot him on the spot.

—*General John A. Dix.*

As at the early dawn the stars shine forth even while it grows light, and then, as the sun advances, that light breaks into banks and streaming lines of color, the glowing red and intense white striving together and ribbing the horizon with bars effulgent; so on

the American flag, stars and beams of many-colored lights shine out together. And where this flag comes, and men behold it, they see in its sacred emblazonry no ramping lions and no fierce eagle, no embattled castles or insignia of imperial authority; they see the symbols of light. It is the banner of dawn. It means Liberty; and the galley slave, the poor oppressed conscript, the down-trodden creature of foreign despotism, sees in the American flag that very promise and prediction of God, "The people which sat in darkness saw a great light, and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up."

—*Anonymous.*

Take from your flag its folds of gloom,
And let it float undimmed above,
'Till over all our vales shall bloom
The sacred colors that we love.

—*Phoebe Carey.*

## THE AMERICAN FLAG.

At last, at last, each glowing star
In that pure field of heavenly blue,
On every people shining far,
Burns to its utmost promise true.

Hopes in our fathers' hearts that stirred,
Justice, the seal of peace, long scorned,
O perfect peace! too long deferred,
At last, at last, your day has dawned.

Your day has dawned, but many an hour
Of storm and cloud, of doubt and tears,
Across the eternal sky must lower
Before the glorious noon appears.

And not for us that noontide glow;
For us the strife and toil shall be;
But welcome toil, for now we know,
Our children shall that glory see.

At last, at last, O Stars and Stripes!
Touched in your birth by Freedom's flame,
Your purifying lightning wipes
Out from our history its shame.

Stand to your faith, America!
Sad Europe listen to our call!
Up to your manhood, Africa!
That glorious flag floats over all.

And when the hour seems dark with doom
Our sacred banner, lifted higher,
Shall flash away the gathering gloom
With inextinguishable fire.

Pure as its white the future see!
Bright as its red is now the sky!
Fixed as its stars the faith shall be,
That nerves our hands to do or die.

—*G. W. Curtis.*

## THE MEANING OF OUR FLAG.

The flag for which our heroes fought, for which they died, is the symbol of all we are, of all we hope to be. It is the emblem of equal rights. It means free hands, free lips, self-government, and the sovereignty of the individual. It means that this continent has been dedicated to freedom.

It means universal education—light for every mind, knowledge for every child. It means that the schoolhouse is the fortress of liberty.

It means that it is the duty of every citizen to bear his share of the public burden—to take part in the affairs of his town, his county, his state and his country. It means that the ballot-box is the ark of the covenant; that the source of authority must not be poisoned.

It means the perpetual right of peaceful revolution.

It means that every citizen of the republic, native or naturalized, must be protected at home in every state, abroad in every land, on every sea.

It means that all distinctions based on birth or blood have perished from our laws; that our government shall stand between labor and capital, between the weak and the strong, between the individual and the corporation, between want and wealth, and give and guarantee simple justice to each and all.

It means that there shall be a legal remedy for every wrong.

It means national hospitality—that we must welcome to our shores the exiles of the world, and that we may not drive them

back. Some may be deformed by labor, dwarfed by hunger, broken in spirit, victims of tyranny and caste—in whose sad faces may be read the touching record of a weary life—and yet their children, born of liberty and love, will be symmetrical and fair, intelligent and free.

—*Col. R. G. Ingersoll.*

## GOD BLESS OUR FLAG.

God bless our glorious flag!
From vale to mountain crag
It floats in peace,
Proud banner of the free,
Ever triumphantly.
May earth expect to see
Thy power increase.

—*J. C. O. Redington.*

## FLAG OF AMERICA.

Flag of America, Emblem of Liberty,
Forever wave!
Beautiful ever bright,
Wave in thy people's might,
For freedom, truth and right,
Flag of the brave!

Flag of America, Symbol of Unity,
Of heart and hand;
Where e'er beneath the skies
Downtrodden men arise,
To thee they lift their eyes,
And this fair land.

Flag of America, brave men have died for thee
On land and sea;
Upon thy starry field
Their glory stands revealed
As each new star doth yield
Brightness to thee!

Flag of America, thy people's love for thee
What tongue can tell?
Wave to protect and bless,
Wave on for righteousness,
Flag of America, God guard thee well.

—*Anonymous.*

## MISUSE OF THE FLAG.

Patterns of the national flag are printed on towels, napkins, neckties, hosiery, and used as awnings and flaming posters for political candidates. The so-called patriotic envelope, with a facsimile of the American flag on its face, is among the latest examples of misuse. One of these envelopes mailed from a city in the State of Massachusetts arrived at a point in Sweden, addressed to an American student at a manual training school. It was deemed by the local authorities, because of the print of the American flag upon it, to be a communication from the United States government. Immediately a special train was made up and carried that letter to its destination, forty miles distant.

## OUR COLORS.

Red! 'tis the hue of battle,
The pledge of victory;
In sunset light, in northern night,
It flashes brave and free.
"Then paint with red thy banner,"
Quoth Freedom to the land,
"And when thy sons go forth to war
This sign be in their hand!"

White! 'tis the sign of purity,
Of everlasting truth;
The snowy robe of childhood,
The stainless mail of youth.
Then paint with white thy banner,
And pure as northern snow,
May these thy stately children
In truth and honor go.

Blue! 'tis the tint of heaven,
The morning's gold-shot arch,
The burning deeps of noontide,
The stars' unending march.
Then paint with blue thy banner,
And bid thy children raise
At daybreak, noon and eventide
Their hymn of love and praise.

Valor and truth and righteousness,
In three-fold strength to-day,

Raise high the flag triumphant,
The banner glad and gay.
"And keep thou well thy colors,"
Quoth Freedom to the land,
"And 'gainst a world of evil
Thy sons and thou shall stand."

—*Anonymous.*

## THE FLAG.

That ocean-guarded flag of light, forever may it fly!
It flashed o'er Monmouth's bloody fight, and lit McHenry's sky;
It bears upon its folds of flame to earth's remotest wave
The names of men whose deeds of fame shall e'er inspire the brave.

Timbers have crashed and guns have pealed beneath its radiant glow,
But never did that ensign yield its honor to the foe;
Its fame shall march with martial tread down ages yet to be,
To guard those stars that never paled in fight on land or sea.

Its stripes of red, eternal dyed with heart-streams of all lands;
Its white, the snow-capped hills that hide in storm their upraised hands;
Its blue, the ocean waves that beat round Freedom's circled shore;
Its stars, the print of angels' feet that burn forevermore.

—*James Whitcomb Riley.*

## THE FLAG OF THE CONSTELLATION.

Stars of the morn on our banner borne,
With heaven's iris blended,
The hands of our sires mingled first those fires,
By us they'll be defended.

Then hail to the true, the red, white and blue!
The flag of the constellation;
It sails as it sailed, by our fathers hailed,
O'er battles that made us a nation.

What hand so bold as to strike from its fold
A star or stripe there bright'ning!
To him each star be a fiery Mars,
Each stripe a terrible lightning.

Its meteor form shall outride the storm
'Till the fiercest foes surrender;
The storm gone by, it shall gild the sky,
A rainbow of peace and of splendor.

Peace to the world is our motto unfurled,
Tho' we fear no field that's gory;
At home or abroad, fearing none but God,
Our own pathway we're carving to glory.

—*T. Buchanan Reid.*

## CHRONICLES OF THE FLAG.

Ne'er waved beneath the golden sun
A lovelier banner for the brave
Than that our bleeding fathers won
And proudly to their children gave.

Its glorious stars in azure shine,
The radiant heraldry of heaven;
Its stripes in beauteous order twine,
The emblems of our Union given.

Around the globe, through every clime,
Where commerce wafts or man hath trod,
It floats aloft, unstained with crime,
But hallowed by heroic blood.

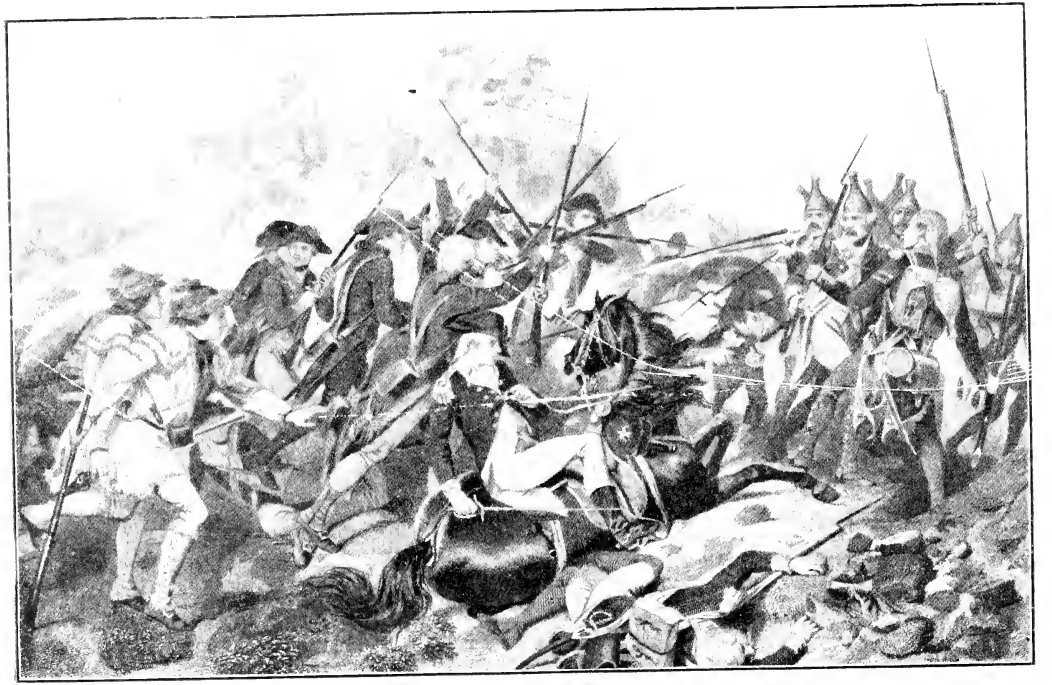
—*Anonymous.*

## THE OLD FLAG.

Our flag—"The Old Flag," as we are pleased to term it—is not old as the years of nations are counted. A little span of an hundred years bridges the river of Time that rolls between the then and now. But in that century of life is compassed more of human progress, more of grandeur and glory, than the world has witnessed since the morning stars sang together. Young, as the hours are numbered on a dial; full of years, in the splendor of its matchless fame.

Born on a battlefield, an infant Hercules cradled on the brazen shield of Mars, the thunders of Saratoga sang its first lullaby. Its young life lightened the gloom of Valley Forge and cheered the great heart of Washington. It learned the alphabet of glory, writing with the sword on British hearts the names of Germantown, and Monmouth, and Cowpens, and Yorktown.

In vigorous youth it answered the menace of its hereditary foe with the glories of Niagara and New Orleans, Erie and Champlain. It led a forlorn hope of gallant souls from the Rio Grande to the



BATTLE OF SARATOGA, N. Y., OCTOBER 7, 1777.

city of the Aztec kings, and on the plains of Mexico fluttered over the old civilization "like an eagle in a dove cote."

And when this infant came of age—Why trace further the fortunes of the flag? There are heroes who have written the grandest pages of its history in their blood; who have blazoned its every fold with great names and valorous deeds that will still live on when all of us are mute.

We saw its stars go down in darkness at Sumter. We watched its varying fortunes through the night of war. Four ponderous years its colors hung like an avenging Nemesis bathed in the lurid clouds of battle. We saw it in the hour of victory, when the last field was won, scarred with the wounds of deadly strife; tattered in the tempest of conflict; stained with the red record of battle.

A flag of shreds and patches. Royalty in rags; but "every inch a king!"

And when the light of that April morning irradiated its folds the last shackle of bondage was melted in the fervent heat of patriotism, the one blot of shame gone from our escutcheon.

Liberty endures! The Nation lives! Advance your standard, peerless Republic! "Not a stripe erased, not a star obscured." O Stars and Stripes of beauty and glory!

Glinted by the first rays of the morning, as you crown the blue waters of the Atlantic, a beacon of liberty to all the lands; kissed by the light of noonday as you wave over the great Mississippi Valley and spread your protecting shadow in majestic sweep from the unsalted seas to the land of the Montezumas; gorgeous in the golden sunset of that far Occident, whose rivers tumble to the tide and hear no sound save their own dashing; gathering a continent in your embrace, sheltering one great country under the benison of one mighty flag, we salute you.

Your flag! our beloved brethren of the Southland. Your flag! men of the Northland. We can now all sing with the whole heart

"The Star-Spangled Banner forever shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave,"

for now we are all united in one unbroken Union.

"We know to-day no North nor South, erased all boundary bars,
For o'er us float from palm to pine, unmarred, the stripes and stars.
The pangs of war have rent the vail, and lo! God's high decree,
One heart, one hope, one destiny, one flag from sea to sea."

—*James S. Ostrander.*

## THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE.

*A Recitation for Three Girls.*

A child dressed in red and carrying red flowers recites:

I love the red, the gleaming red
Of the stripes so bright and clear.
Brave men grow braver in war, 'tis said,
When the crimson folds float near.
And my heart grows light
Whenever I see
The stripes of our banner
Waving for me.

White, appropriately dressed, takes place at left of red:

The flag at first was pure and white,
With never a field of blue,
Nor a crimson stripe, nor a silver star,
Its snow-white surface knew.
I'm sure my heart
Loves the pure white best,
For its snowy banner
Holds all the rest.

Blue at left of white:

The stars of the States shine bright and clear
In their deep, deep field of blue,
And each one says "I have joined the flag,
To its colors I'll be true."
Give me the field
Where the stars are set;
They are forty-five
And more room yet.

Tri-color, at left of blue:

All other flags with colors bright
For other lands may do,
But the flag that pleases the children most
Is the dear "Red, White and Blue."
With its folds flung wide
On the glad free air,
The children welcome it
Everywhere.

The three, joining hands:

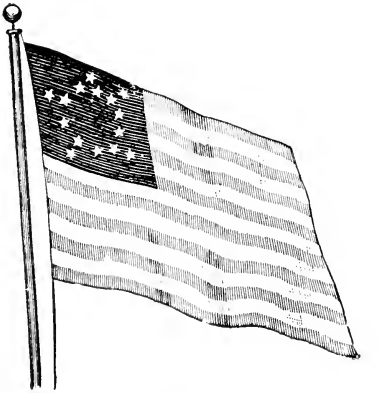
So we join our hands for the flag we love—
Stripes, stars and field in one—

Red, White and Blue, and hail anew
The flag of our Washington.
Yes, hand in hand,
With hearts as one,
We'll be true to the flag
Of Washington.

## THE AMERICAN FLAG.

Our starry banner, with white stars on a blue field, has grown from the original thirteen, each State representing a star, in the following order:

Fourteenth—Kentucky, Feb. 4, 1791.
Fifteenth—Vermont, Feb. 10, 1791.
Sixteenth—Tennessee, in 1796.
Seventeenth—Ohio, in 1802.
Eighteenth—Louisiana, in 1812.
Nineteenth—Indiana, in 1816.



**Flag of Fifteen Stars.**
**1791.**

Twentieth—Mississippi, in 1816.
Twenty-first—Illinois, in 1818.
Twenty-second—Alabama, in 1819.
Twenty-third—Maine, in 1820.
Twenty-fourth—Missouri, in 1821.
Twenty-fifth—Arkansas, in 1836.
Twenty-sixth—Michigan, in 1837.
Twenty-seventh—Florida, March 3, 1845.

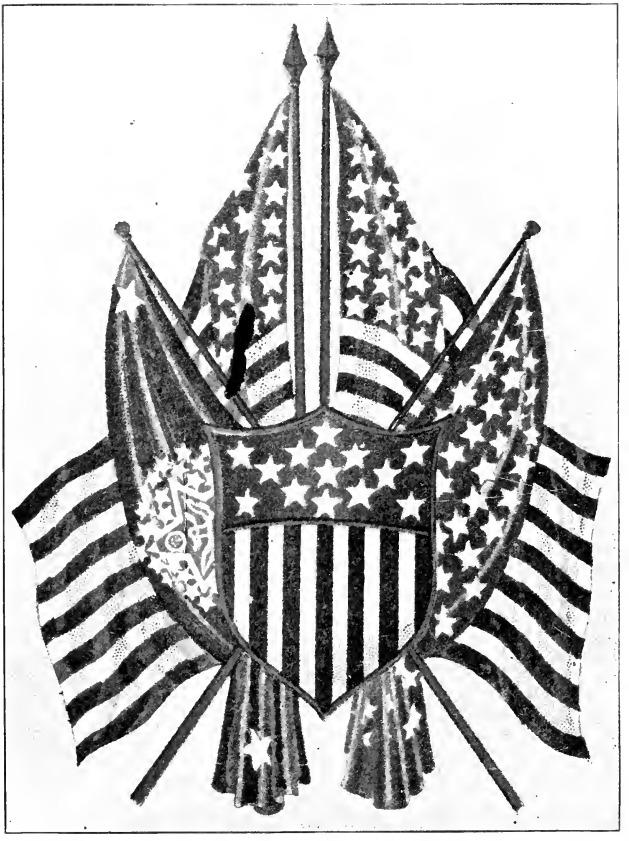
Twenty-eighth—Iowa, March 3, 1845.
Twenty-ninth—Texas, Dec. 29, 1845.
Thirtieth—Wisconsin, in 1847.
Thirty-first—California, in 1850.
Thirty-second—Minnesota, in 1857.
Thirty-third—Oregon, in 1859.
Thirty-fourth—Kansas, in 1861.
Thirty-fifth—West Virginia, in 1862.
Thirty-sixth—Nevada, in 1864.
Thirty-seventh—Nebraska, in 1867.
Thirty-eighth—Colorado, in 1875.
Thirty-ninth—North Dakota, in 1889.
Fortieth—South Dakota, in 1889.
Forty-first—Montana, in 1889.
Forty-second—Washington, in 1889.
Forty-third—Idaho, July 3, 1890.
Forty-fourth—Wyoming, July 10, 1890.
Forty-fifth—Utah, in 1896.

## FLAG DAYS.

Positive lessons in connection with the flag should be introduced into every school. The national flag should be raised on school buildings on all National or State holidays and on anniversaries of memorable events in our country's history. And on such days, when the schools are in session, the pupils should receive appropriate instruction relative to the person or events commemorated.

The following are recommended for stated flag days:

Sept 10—Perry's victory.
Sept. 22—Emancipation Proclamation.
Oct. 12—Columbus discovered America.
Oct. 19—Cornwallis' surrender.
Nov. 19—Garfield born.
Dec. 8—Birth of Eli Whitney.
Dec. 16—Boston Tea Party.
Dec. 22—Forefathers' Day.
Jan. 1—American flag first used by Washington.
Jan. 8—Battle of New Orleans.
Jan. 18—Daniel Webster born.
Jan. 26—Charles Sumner born.
Feb. 12—Abraham Lincoln born.
April 2—Thomas Jefferson born, 1743.



THE EVOLUTION OF THE FLAG.

April 19—Battle of Lexington.
April 27—U. S. Grant born.
April 30—Inauguration of Washington, 1789.
May 14—Founding of Jamestown. Timothy Dwight born, 1752.
May 29—Patrick Henry born, 1736.
May 30—Decoration Day.
June 14—American flag adopted.
June 17—Battle of Bunker Hill.

## THE FLAG WAVING OVER THE SCHOOL HOUSE.

Let the flag wave over every schoolhouse. Let the children within its walls be instructed in the principles of patriotism. Let them recite the poems which set forth the glories of our land. Let them declaim the speeches which proclaim the true principles of its government. Let them learn what the fathers of the republic said. Let them learn the great and inspiring facts in the nation's history. And let them revere the flag.

It is the symbol of their country's greatness. It reminds them of the glories of the Revolutionary War. It reminds them of the fact that in the greatest civil contest that was ever waged on earth this nation came out victor. Its power and its grandeur are to-day represented by the Stars and Stripes.

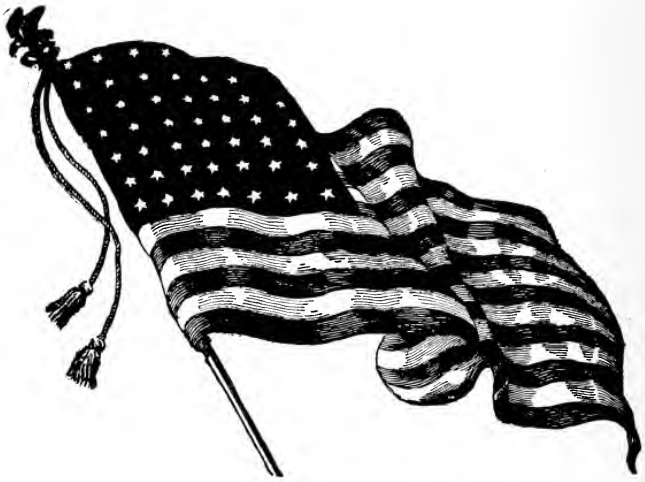
Let the children read in the red of the flag the story of the precious blood that has been shed in defense of the nation's liberties and the nation's existence. Let them discern in its glorious blue the purity of the principles on which it is founded, the heavenly, the inspiring sentiments which have animated her sons and daughters in all trying times. And let them read in the white the lofty purity of those principles, their tendency to uplift and cleanse humanity, their mighty influence in regenerating the race.

—*Dr. Richard Edwards,*
Ex-Supt. of Public Instruction of Ill.

Let the flag of our country wave from the spire of every church in the land, with nothing above it but the cross of Christ.

—*Rev. E. A. Anderson.*

Oh, raise that glorious ensign high,
And let the nations see
The flag for which our fathers fought
To make our country free!



WRITTEN FOR FLAG-RAISING EXERCISES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

BY J. C. MACY.

*What flag is this, with crimson bars and white?*
*Who flings it forth to wave in jubilant air?*
*What emblem dear, that throngs should thus unite*
*To sing and speak its worth in praises fair?*

*He who should come with such inquiries, here,*
*Would find his answer in each pitying face!*
*Amazed the throng would be, should he appear*
*Who ne'er till then, had heard of free-born race!*

*O, starry flag, with white and crimson bars!*
*O, blood-bought emblem of a glorious land*
*O, pride of vet'rans in the smoke of wars!*
*O, flag, caress'd by dying hero's hand!*

*Wave on! and to the end of time wave on*
*Untouch'd by other than a loyal throng!*
*Thy stripes and stars so dearly loved and won,*
*To God, to Freedom, and to Right, belong!*

Boston, Mass., May, 1890.

From every hill, in every vale,
Where freemen tread the sod,
And from the spires where freemen meet
For prayer and praise to God—
Unfurl the flag beneath but this,
The Cross of Calvary!

—*Anonymous.*

Put the flag of your country just below the cross of Christ.

—*Bishop Matthew M. Simpson.*

Ride on, proud flag, while angel song
Breaks on the hills from sea to sea;
Thy stars are symbols of the skies,
Thy stripes are tokens of the free!

—*C. J. Smith.*

Shine on, then, "Old Glory!" Shine on till the day
When earth's last oppressor is under its sod,
Then fade, like the stars of the morning, away,
In the holier light of the Kingdom of God!

—*Chaplain John Hogarth Lozier.*

## A SCHOOL RECITATION.

HURRAH FOR THE FLAG.

There are many flags in many lands,
There are flags of every hue,
But there is no flag, however grand,
Like our own "Red, White and Blue."

CHORUS:

Then hurrah for the flag! Our country's flag!
Its stripes and white stars, too!
There is no flag in any land
Like our own Red, White and Blue!

I know where the prettiest colors are,
And I'm sure if I only knew
How to get them here I could make a flag
Of glorious Red, White and Blue.—CHORUS.

I would cut a piece from an evening sky,
Where the stars were shining through,
And use it just as it was on high
For my stars and field of Blue.—CHORUS.

Then I'd want a part of a fleecy cloud,
And some red from a rainbow bright,
And put them together, side by side,
For my stripes of Red and White.—CHORUS.

We shall always love the Stars and Stripes,
And we mean to be ever true
To this land of ours and the dear old flag—
The Red, the White and Blue.—CHORUS.

## RECITATION—OUR FLAG.

(The color-bearer carries the flag of the United States.)

A song for the flag,
The bonny, bonny flag,
With its stripes of red and white,
Its bit of sky-blue
With the stars peeping through,
'Twill brighten the darkest night.

Hurrah for the flag,
The bonny, bonny flag!
We will sing its colors fair;
We love the pure and the true,
So choose the Red, White and Blue,
And we'll follow it everywhere.

Hurrah for the flag,
The bonny, bonny flag!
The banner that Freedom lights;
Hurrah for the land,
And the ocean grand,
That bear the Stars and Stripes.

(As the recitation is finished the speaker falls back.)

### FLOWERS FOR THE BANNER.

(A section of children carry red flowers, Section 2, white, and Section 3, blue.)

The red is the color of morning,
When sunny and fair it glows,
And mamma is glad when the baby's cheeks,
Are as bright as the red, red rose.

The white is the color of moonlight,
It lieth all soft and still;
While the lily-bells their secrets tell,
Ringing o'er the vale and hill.

The blue is the sky's own color,
And I think perhaps baby's eyes,
That sparkle and glow, are a bit, you know,
Taken out of the starry skies.

IN CONCERT:
And these are the flowers of the banner,
The banner of love and light,
The banner of stars, with its crimson bars,
And its stripings of snowy white.

(They hang wreaths and festoons on the flag carried by the last speaker.)

*Singing.*—"Hurrah for the Flag."

## RESPONSIVE EXERCISES.

(Enter a group of children, each carrying a small U. S. flag.)

### GOD BLESS OUR STARS FOREVER.

IN CONCERT:
"God bless our stars forever!"
'Tis the burden of the song,
Where the sail through hollow midnight
Is flickering along;
When a ribbon of blue heaven
Is gleaming through the clouds,
With a star or two upon it
For the sailor in the shrouds.

IN CONCERT:
"God bless our stars forever!"
It is Liberty's refrain,
From the snows of wild Nevada
To the sounding woods of Maine;
Where the green Multnomah wanders,
Where the Alabama rests,
Where the thunder shakes its turban
Over Allegheny's crests.

Where the mountains of New England
Mock Atlantic's stormy main,
Where God's palm imprints the Prairie
With the type of Heaven again;
Where the mirrored morn is dawning,
Link to link our Lakes along,
And Sacramento's Golden Gate
Swings open to the song.

IN CONCERT:

There and there! "Our stars forever!"
How it echoes! How it thrills!
Blot that banner? Why, they bore it
When no sunset bathed the hills.
Now o'er Bunker see it billow,
Now at Bennington it waves,
Ticonderoga swells beneath,
And Saratoga's graves!

Oh, long ago at Lexington,
And above those minute men,
The "Old Thirteen" were blazing bright,
There were only thirteen then!
God's own stars are gleaming through it,
Stars not woven in its thread,
Unfurl it and that flag will glitter
With the heaven overhead.

When the weary years are halting
In the mighty march of Time,
And no new ones throng the threshold
Of its corridors sublime;
When the clarion call, "Close up!"
Rings along the line no more,
Then adieu, thou blessed banner,
Then adieu, and not before.

—*Benjamin F. Taylor.*

## THE CONFEDERATE FLAG.

On March 5, 1861, the Flag of the Confederate States of America was adopted by the Provisional Confederate Congress. But the following action was entered upon the Journal of Proceedings as if of the day previous, when the flag had been first publicly displayed over the State House at Montgomery, Ala., where the Congress was then in session:

"The Flag of the Confederate States of America shall consist of a red field, with a white space extending horizontally through the center, and equal in width to one-third the width of the flag; the red spaces above and below to be of the same width as the white. The union blue, extending down through the white space, and stopping at the lower red space; in the center of the union a circle of white stars, corresponding in number with the States of the Confederacy."

## GROWTH OF THE AMERICAN FLAG.

The "Stars and Bars" was not generally used by the Confederate army, the usual battle-flag being one with the red field, having a blue diagonal cross containing white stars.

The second Confederate flag, adopted in May, 1863, was as follows:

"The field was of white, twice as long as wide. The union was

GENERAL LEE AND THE CONFEDERATE FLAGS.

red, square and two-thirds as deep as the field, with a broad, white bordered saltier, emblazoned with five-pointed white stars, corresponding in number to the States in the Confederacy."

On February 14, 1865, the following flag was adopted in its place:

"Width, two-thirds of its length; the union three-fifths of the width of the flag, and so proportioned as to leave the length of field

on the side of the union twice the width below it; to have a ground of red, and broad blue saltier thereon, bordered with white and emblazoned with mullets, or five-pointed stars, corresponding in number to that of the Confederate States. The field to be white, except the outer half from the union, which shall be a red bar extending the width of the flag."

The Stars and Stripes were again raised over the surrendered Confederate Capitol at Richmond, Va. on April 3, 1865, by Lieutenant Johnston L. de Peyster, assisted by Captain Langdon.

The foregoing cut, with the accompanying copy of General Lee's farewell address to the Army of Northern Virginia, printed just after the surrender at Appomatox, was given to Colonel W. C. Oakley, of the Chicago Veteran Association, by a Confederate officer, who had carefully preserved it, creased and folded, for thirty-seven years. Through the kindness of Colonel Oakley it is here reproduced:

## GEN. R. E. LEE'S FAREWELL ADDRESS.

GENERAL ORDERS. HEADQUARTERS ARMY NORTHERN VIRGINIA.
No. 9. Appomatox C. H., April 10, 1865.

After four years of arduous service, marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude, the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources.

I need not tell the survivors of so many hard-fought battles, who have remained steadfast to the last, that I have consented to this result from no distrust of them; but feeling that valor and devotion could accomplish nothing that would compensate for the loss that must have attended a continuance of the contest, I determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their countrymen.

By the terms of the agreement, officers and men can return to their homes and remain until exchanged. You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from the consciousness of duty faithfully performed, and I earnestly pray that a merciful God will extend to you His blessing and His protection. With an unceasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your country, and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration of myself, I bid you all an affectionate farewell.

## THE END OF THE WAR AGAINST THE UNION AND THE FLAG.

Thank God; the bloody days are past;
Our patient hopes are crowned at last,
And sounds of bugle, drum and fife
But lead our heroes home from strife!

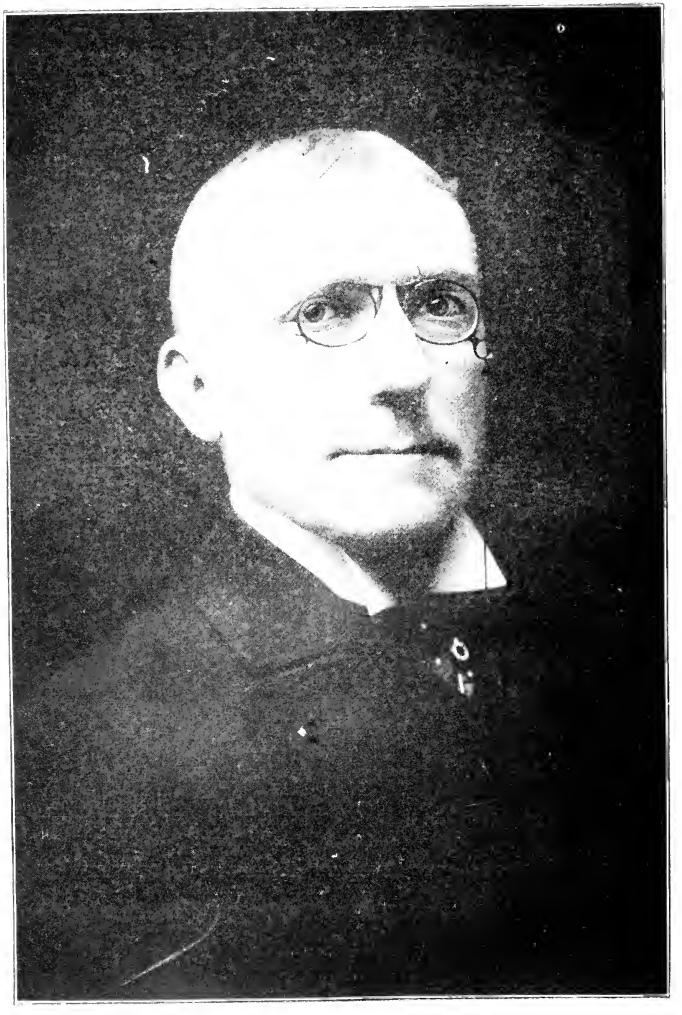
Thank God! there beams o'er land and sea
Our blazing star of victory;
And everywhere, from main to main,
The old flag flies and rules again!

—*George H. Boker,* July 4, 1865.

At a recent reunion of the United Sons of Confederate Veterans recently held at Memphis, Tenn., General Biscoe Hindman closed an eloquent address with the following patriotic sentiment and stirring lines:

"We thank God that the Confederate Veterans have lived to show their children how to be among the ablest and most loyal supporters of the greatest and best republic on earth, and I believe the day is not far distant when the survivors of that great struggle will strew flowers impartially over the graves of all heroic American citizens, whether they wore the Blue or the Gray.

"No North, no South, united the great country stands,
For hearts that beat all brotherly, for holiest clasp of hands.
No North, no South—one country where stars of glory shine,
The flag that waves above us knows no dividing line.
One in the patriot purpose, One in the brave bright deed,
One in the peace that blesses, One on the fields that bleed!
Under the stars which gem the flag, no other dream we know
Than freedom fair and brotherhood—and God ordained it so!"



JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY.

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## THE NAME OF OLD GLORY.

1898.

I

Old Glory! say, who,
By the ships and the crew,
And the long, blended ranks of the gray and the blue,—
Who gave you, Old Glory, the name that you bear
With such pride everywhere
As you cast yourself free to the rapturous air
And leap out full-length, as we're wanting you to?—
Who gave you that name, with the ring of the same,
And the honor and fame so becoming to you?—
Your stripes stroked in ripples of white and of red,
With your stars at their glittering best overhead—
By day or by night
Their delightfulest light
Laughing down from their little square heaven of blue!—
Who gave you the name of Old Glory?—say, who—
Who gave you the name of Old Glory?

*The old banner lifted, and faltering then*
*In vague lisps and whispers fell silent again.*

II

Old Glory,—speak out!—we are asking about
How you happened to "favor" a name, so to say,
That sounds so familiar and careless and gay
As we cheer it and shout in our wild breezy way—
We—the *crowd*, every man of us, calling you that—
*He*—Tom, Dick and Harry—each swinging his hat
And hurrahing "Old Glory!" like you were our kin,
When—*Lord!*—we all know we're as common as sin!
And yet it just seems like you *humor* us all
And waft us your thanks, as we hail you and fall
Into line, with you over us, waving us on
Where our glorified, sanctified betters have gone.—
And this is the reason we're wanting to know—
(And we're wanting it *so!*—
Where our own fathers went we are willing to go.)—
Who gave you the name of Old Glory—O-ho!—
Who gave you the name of Old Glory?

*The old flag unfurled with a billowy thrill*
*For an instant, then wistfully sighed and was still.*

III

Old Glory: the story we're wanting to hear
Is what the plain facts of your Christening were,—
For your name—just to hear it,
Repeat it, and cheer it, 's a tang to the spirit
As salt as a tear;—
And seeing you fly, and the boys marching by,
There's a shout in the throat and a blur in the eye
And an aching to live for you always—or die,
If, dying, we still keep you waving on high.
And so, by our love
For you, floating above,
And the scars of all wars and the sorrows thereof,
Who gave you the name of Old Glory, and why
Are we thrilled at the name of Old Glory?

*Then the old banner leaped, like a sail in the blast,*
*And fluttered an audible answer at last.—*

IV

And it spake, with a shake of the voice, and it said:—
By the driven snow-white and the living blood-red
Of my bars, and their heaven of stars overhead—
By the symbol conjoined of them all, skyward cast,
As I float from the steeple, or flap at the mast,
Or droop o'er the sod where the long grasses nod,—
My name is as old as the glory of God.
. . . . So I came by the name of Old Glory.

—James Whitcomb Riley.

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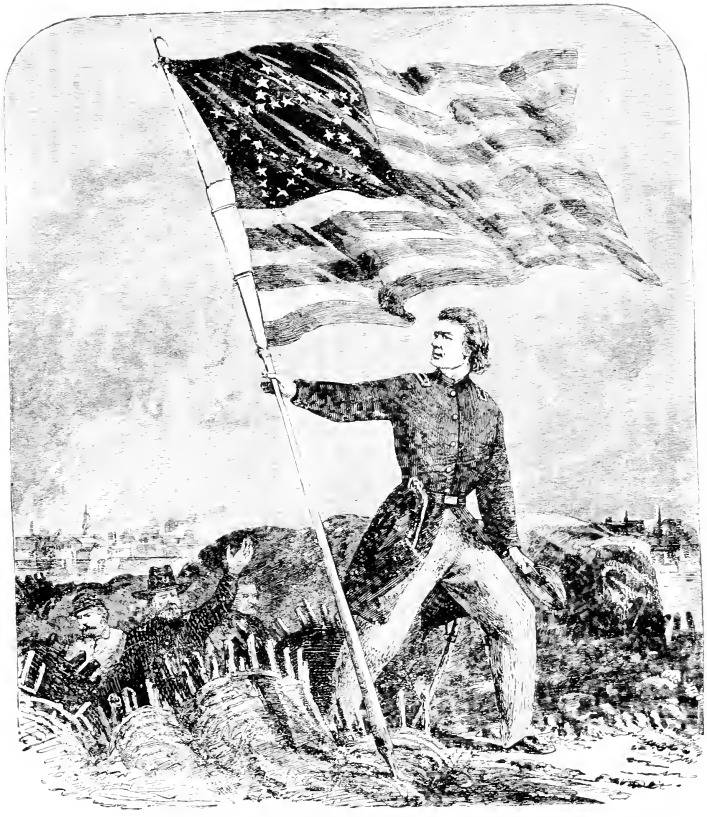
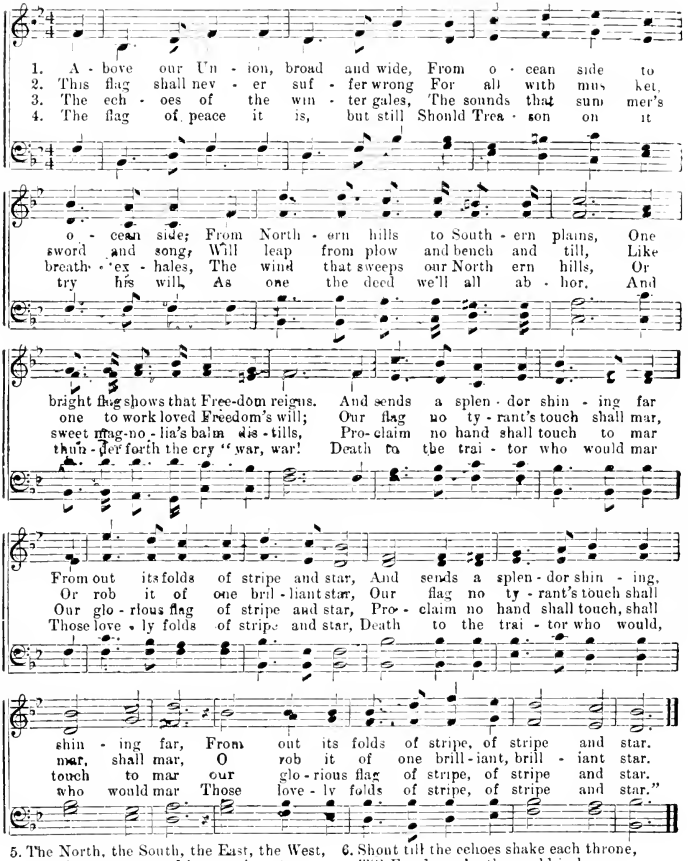


Raising of the Flag over Fort Sumter, February 18, 1865, on a temporary staff, formed of an oar and boat hook, by Captain H. M. Bragg, of General Gilmore's staff.

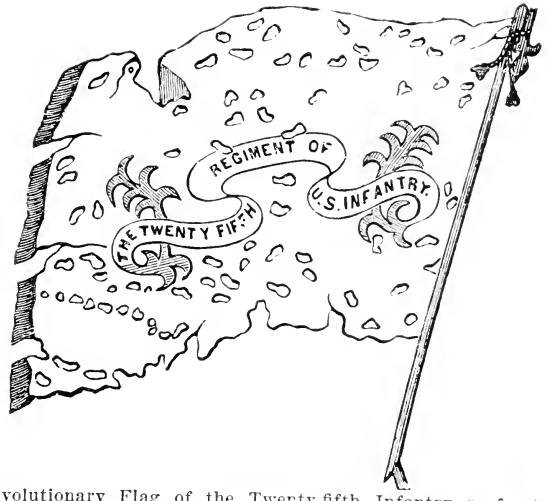
From a Sketch by W. T. Crane for Frank Leslie's Weekly.

# Our Flag.

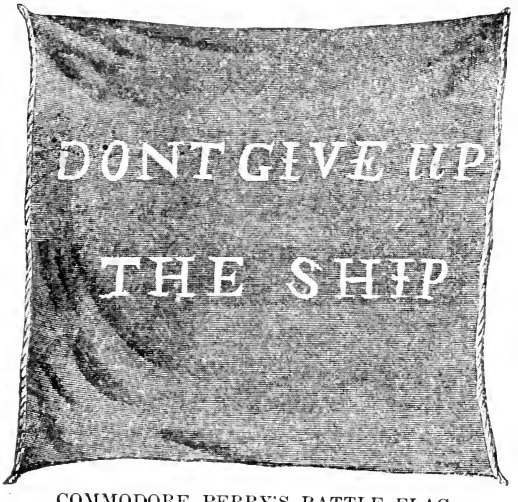
A. R. Robinson. Carl Wilhelm

5. The North, the South, the East, the West,
Have but one arm and but one breast.
Bound one in many, and the hand
Of tyrant ne'er can chain our land;
Led by our flag *of stripe** and star
We'll tyrants from *our land* debar.

6. Shout till the echoes shake each throne,
Till Freedom o'er the world is known,
Till all mankind in every clime
Shall join the chorus, grand, sublime;
Ten million swords the *guardians* are
Of Freedom's flag *of stripe* and star.

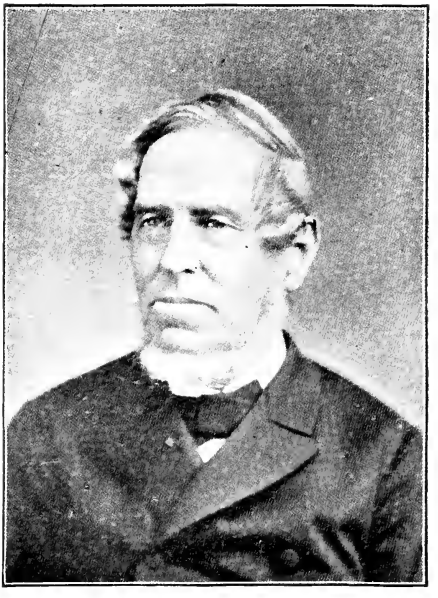
* Second time singing, these words in italics are repeated.




Revolutionary Flag of the Twenty-fifth Infantry perforated by bullets.



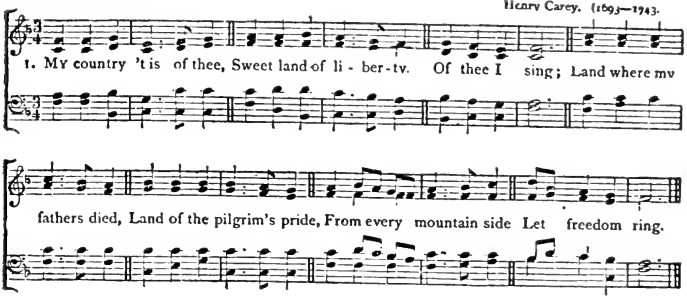

COMMODORE PERRY'S BATTLE FLAG.



Rev. S. F. Smith, Author of "America."

**AMERICA. 6, 4.**

Henry Carey. (1693—1743.




America.

My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrim's pride,
From every mountain side
Let freedom ring.

My native country, — thee,
Land of the noble, free,
Thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills,
My heart with rapture thrills
Like that above.

Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees
Sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake,
Let all that breathe partake,
Let rocks their silence break, —
The sound prolong.

Our fathers' God, — to Thee
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light,
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, — our King.

Written in 1832. S. F. Smith.
Oct. 26, 1889.

Specially written for the editor by Rev. S. F. Smith.

## OUR FLAG ADVANCING.

Yes! "Our Flag" is still advancing!
How these words our bosoms thrill!
May our sons in coming ages
Keep that flag advancing still—
'Till o'er all this vast dominion,
Where the foot of man has trod,
All shall bow 'neath Freedom's banner,
All shall worship Freedom's God!

Still advancing, higher! higher!
Shout, ye loyal! Shout, ye brave!
Tyrants, let your hopes expire
When you see that banner wave!
Still advancing! Oh! we hail thee!
In thy grandeur ever wave!
Perish all who dare assail thee,
Grand old banner of the brave!

—*Chaplain Lozier*

Our Flag Is Still Advancing.

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## ONWARD.

JOHN PIERPONT.

God, to the human soul,
And all the spheres that roll,
Wrapped by his spirit in their robes of light,
Hath said: "The primal plan
Of all the world, and man,
Is Onward! Progress is your law—your right."
The despots of the earth,
Since Freedom had her birth,
Have to their subject nations said, "Stand still";
So from the Polar Bear
Comes down the freezing air,
And stiffens all things with its deadly chill.

He who doth God resist—
God's old antagonist—
Would snap the chain that binds all things to him,
And in his godless pride,
All people would divide,
And scatter even the choirs of seraphim.
God, all the orbs that roll,
Binds to one common goal—
One source of light and life—his radiant throne.
In one fraternal mind
All races would he bind,
Till every man in man a brother own.